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It is a forward looking document

But it needs suitable legislation to back it

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SUPER KINGS' DAY OUT

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Karnataka records a turnout of 72.68% in Assembly elections

After a fierce campaign by BJP, Congress and JD(S), polling percentage crosses the 2018 figure; Bengaluru records a low turnout of 54.53%; counting of votes for 224-member House on Saturday

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Assembly election held on Wednesday passed off peacefully with a turnout of 72.68% as per provisional data at 11 p.m, surpassing the 72.36% recorded in 2018.

Predictably, Bengaluru's turnout in the 28 constituencies that come under it remained dismal at an estimated 54.53%, despite a campaign blitz by several national leaders of all parties, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and special drives by the Election Commission to enthuse urban voters.

Picture of contrast

In stark contrast to Bengaluru, its neighbouring districts with large rural pockets recorded a heavy turnout. Chikkaballapura recorded a turnout of 85.83%, followed by Ramanagara at 84.98%, Bengaluru Rural at 83.76% and Tumakuru at 83.49%.

After Bengaluru, Kalaburagi at 65.22%, Yadgir at 66.66% and Raichur at 69.79% recorded a relatively lower turnout.

Polling for the 224 Assembly seats began on a slow note in the morning with about 8.21% of the votes polled in the first two hours. It gathered pace later in the day.

The State had witnessed a fierce campaign by the ruling BJP, the Congress and the Janata Dal(S). The counting of votes will be held on Saturday. Karnataka had reported a poll percentage of 71.45% in 2013 and 72.1% in 2018. The turnout in Bengaluru was 62% in 2013 and 57% in 2018.

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Poll predictions

Exit polls, barring News Nation-CGS, predict Congress to be the single-largest party in the 224-member Karnataka Assembly, though there is also a likelihood of a hung House

Exit polls	BJP	Cong.	JD(S)	Others
Zee News-Matrize	79-94	103-118	25-33	2-5
Today's Chanakya	92 ± 11	120 ± 11	12 ± 7	0 ± 3
ABP News-CVoter	83-95	100-112	21-29	2-6
Times Now-ETG	85	113	23	3
Republic P-MARQ	85-100	94-108	23-31	2-6
Aaj Tak- Axis	62-80	122-140	20-25	0-3
India TV-CNX	80-90	110-120	20-24	1-3
TV 9-Bharat-vansh-Polstrat	88-98	99-109	21-26	0-4
News Nation-CGS	114	86	21	3

Voting day: People queuing up to cast their vote at a primary school in the Mangaluru City South constituency on Wednesday. H.S. MANJUNATH

Polling percentage

Top five districts	
Chickballapur:	85.83
Ramanagara:	84.98
Mandya:	84.36
Bengaluru Rural:	83.76
Tumakuru:	83.49
Bottom five districts	
Bengaluru Urban:	54.51
Kalaburagi:	65.22
Yadgir:	66.66
Raichur:	69.79
Vijayapura:	70.78

(As on 11 p.m. Source: ECI's Turnout app)

NEARBY

BJP, Congress confident of getting majority

BENGALURU
Both the Bharatiya Janata Party and Congress expressed confidence of securing a majority on their own as the State went to the Legislative Assembly polls on Wednesday.
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Evacuated Hakki Pikki tribals cast their votes

MYSURU
Back in their village of Pakshirajapura in Hunsur taluk near here days after their evacuation from the conflict zone in Sudan under Operation Kaveri, several Hakki Pikki tribal people cast their votes in the local polling booth on Wednesday.
» Page 4

Higher pension: EPFO offices told to work out dues of subscribers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has issued an internal circular directing its regional offices on the method to calculate the dues of subscribers who apply for higher Provident Fund (PF) pension.

According to the circular, 8.33% of employer share on higher pay from November 16, 1995 or from the date the pay exceeds the wage ceiling of ₹6,500 and 1.16% of employer share on higher pay above ₹15,000 a month will be added for calculating dues. Employees who opt for higher pension will have to pay this amount from their PF contribution. Pensioners too will have to make the payment.

"The interest to be charged on dues as calculated above shall be the interest earned by the members on their PF accumulations," the circular said. Another circular on calculating the pension will be released soon.

An EPFO official said a separate circular would be issued addressing the public with details of the method of calculating dues and pension.

The step is part of a series of measures taken by the EPFO to implement the Supreme Court order on higher PF pension.

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A circular will be issued for the public with the method of calculating dues and pension.

Scan to know more or contact your MFD / RIA

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Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

A BG-BGE

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The maternal deaths, stillbirths, neonatal deaths in India

7.88 In lakh. India leads the list of 10 countries that account for 60% of global maternal deaths, stillbirths and newborn deaths, and 51% of live births in 2020-21, according to a UN report. PTI

The number of hostile witnesses in Malegaon blast case

37 An unnamed witness turned hostile and reversed a statement given earlier to Maharashtra police's Anti-Terrorism Squad. This is the 37th witness to turn hostile in the cases where six people were killed. PTI

The migrant encounters at the U.S., Mexico border in 2023

12 In lakh. Joe Biden's administration will begin denying asylum to migrants who show up at the U.S.-Mexico border without applying online or seeking protection in a country they passed through. AP

The number of monthly active users on TikTok in the U.S.

150 In million. The app is facing growing pressure in Washington including calls for a ban by many in Congress who fear its user data could fall into the hands of the Chinese government. REUTERS

New security assistance package by the U.S. for Ukraine

1.2 In $ billion. The military aid is provided by the U.S. to boost Ukraine's air defences. Ukraine is readying for a highly anticipated spring offensive against Russia. AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The troubles of India's aviation industry

What does GoFirst's distress call mean for the aviation sector? Why was a major section of GoFirst's aircraft grounded since last year? Why do airlines struggle to survive? What contributes to the high operating costs? What are the policy and regulatory factors affecting the industry?

EXPLAINER

Diksha Munjal

The story so far:

After low-cost carrier GoFirst's insolvency filing last week, the aviation safety regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Monday, May 8, directed the airline to stop selling air tickets immediately. The DGCA issued GoFirst a showcause notice for its "failure to continue the operation of the service in a safe, efficient and reliable manner", giving it 15 days to reply before the regulator decides on revoking the airline's permit to offer commercial flights. The unprecedented distress call by the airline that rebranded itself just two years ago raises concerns about the health of the Indian aviation industry already reeling from pandemic losses.

How big is the Indian aviation sector?

The country's domestic air traffic has been recovering in the past few months after being severely hit by the coronavirus pandemic. In March, domestic carriers flew 13 million passengers, which according to the DGCA was 11% more than the same month in the pre-pandemic years of 2018 and 2019. As per the Civil Aviation Ministry, India will have more than 140 million passengers in FY2024 alone. The CAPA-Centre for Aviation projects India to handle over 1.3 billion passengers annually in the next 20 years. There are currently 148 airports in the country and it is the third-largest domestic market in the world in terms of seat capacity. As of March 2023, IndiGo remained the domestic market leader with 56.8% of the market share, followed by Vistara (8.9%) and Air India (8.8%). AirAsia had 7.6% of the market, while GoFirst was at 6.9%, followed by SpiceJet at 6.4%. The newest player AkasaAir, which began operations in August 2022, managed to capture a 3.3% share.

Is the sector financially viable?

Despite being touted as the 'fastest growing aviation sector' in the world, airlines in the country have struggled to survive in the highly competitive and unforgiving aviation industry. While travel restrictions during the pandemic badly hit the coffers of all carriers, their financials were in the red earlier as well. While India's airlines cumulatively suffered huge losses (₹15,000 crore) in the financial year 2020-2021 owing to the pandemic, losses are not a post-COVID phenomenon. In 2019-20, IndiGo was the only airline to make a profit, while all other players posted losses led by then state-run Air India at ₹4,600 crore (Chart 1). Financial trouble has led to the folding of major airlines in the past few decades – seventeen airlines, domestic and regional, have exited the market (Chart 2). Meanwhile, the consolidation of four carriers including Air India and Vistara under one umbrella by the Tatas is going to make it even tougher for smaller airlines to capture the market, pointed out CAPA in its recent report. While AirIndia was bad for competition in its earlier state-owned version, with the current consolidation, 75-80% of the market will be captured by Indigo and Air India combined, leaving just about 20% for players like SpiceJet, GoFirst (if it revives), and the newest entrant Akasa.

What costs do airlines bear?

Aviation policy is broad-based in India and is dealt with by the Ministry of Civil Aviation under the legal framework of the Aircraft Act 1934, and Aircraft Rules 1937. The DGCA is the statutory regulatory authority which comes in for issues related to safety, licensing, airworthiness, and so on. While the mother Act and Rules have seen frequent modifications, aviation experts argue that India has not kept pace with modern technology in aerospace and increasing costs to the industry which ultimately affects passenger growth.

While the Indian aviation sector initially saw a boom in the 1990s after opening up as a result of liberalisation reforms and the breaking of the monopoly created by Indian Airlines and Air India, by the early 2000s, only two major airlines that were given licences (Jet Airways and Sahara) survived. Low-cost carriers then entered the market around 2003 with diversification and lower fares being expected to promote the industry's growth. However, while no-frills brands faced intense competition to keep prices low, the government levied high taxes on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF).

According to estimates, while India's airfares are 15% below the break-even point, heavily-taxed ATF contributes to the single biggest expenses of carriers, amounting to anywhere between 40-50% of operational expenses. Some Indian States impose provincial taxes of as much as 30% on jet fuel. This also makes shorter flight routes unsustainable for smaller airlines while big carriers like IndiGo offer ultra-cheap fares on routes flown by rivals using their reach to recoup costs on less-competitive legs and tapping economies of scale to lower overheads, notes a *Bloomberg* analysis.

Indian aviation policy has also posed barriers to entry and growth while also not affecting players uniformly. From 2004 to 2016, new airlines in the country had to be in operation for at least five years and have a fleet of at least 20 aircraft to be able to fly internationally, which stabilises the operations and viability of carriers. This changed with the National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP) in 2016, which removed the five-year domestic experience rule but kept in place the 20 aircraft fleet requirement – mandating domestic airlines to have at least 20 aircraft (or 20% of its entire fleet size whichever is higher) for domestic operations. While newer entrants to the industry, like Vistara and AirAsia India lobbied the government to remove the 5/20 rule, legacy carriers who had to meet the earlier requirements to go international opposed the change as being bad for competition.

Most Indian airlines do not own entire fleets as their financials do not allow them to shell out huge one-time payments to buy planes but lease them from companies based out of India instead. About 80% of India's total commercial fleet is leased, according to PwC. However, leasing ends up adding high costs to operations as these leases of about six months each are denominated in U.S dollars. Airlines have to pay annual lease rents of about ₹10,000 crore to lessors, making up nearly 15% of the revenues of Indian Airlines, except Air India which owns a large part of its fleet. The costs of these leases go up further when the Indian rupee depreciates during short and long term global financial developments, for instance, an oil price shock, which simultaneously increases the cost of ATF, compounding the carrier's expenses. Till the government's plan to get leasing companies to set up shop in India and make it a leasing hub takes off fully, the expensive lease rents for airlines and repayment feuds with lessors are here to stay.

Airlines also have to bear costs in terms of airport fees for the use of airport facilities including aircraft landing, freight and other charges related to the use of airport infrastructure such as runways and passenger terminals. Internationally, airlines pass on the bulk of these charges to passengers, however, carriers in India to must remain competitive have to offer lower ticket fares to increase reach. For state-run airports, these charges are regulated by the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) but the recent privatisation of airport operations, (handing over major airports to firms like Adani) have raised concerns about further fee hikes. There are also high costs associated with the training of airline crew. Besides, the crunch in pilots is also reflective of the inadequate number of Flight Training Organisations.

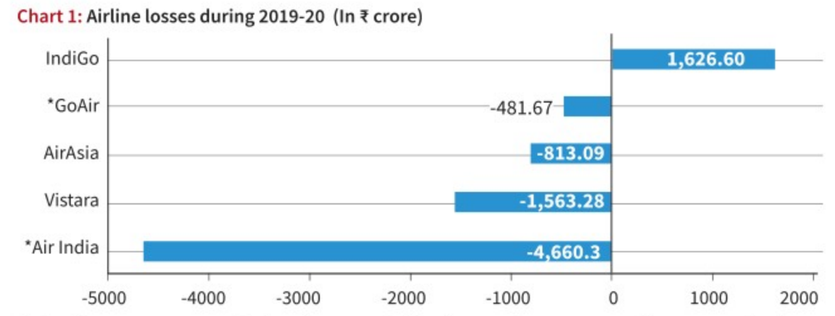
Why was GoFirst's fleet grounded?

Recent months saw several aircraft grounded at airports, frequent mid-air snags and cancellations due to operational reasons. As for GoFirst, which filed for bankruptcy at the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) last week, 28 of its 54 aircraft are grounded. This, it says is due to "the serial failure of Pratt & Whitney's engines, while it continued to incur 100% of its operational costs". The airline said that 50% of its fleet had to be grounded by December 2022, leading to a loss of over ₹10,000 crore for the airline. American engine maker Pratt & Whitney, meanwhile, has disputed the claim saying that the airline has a "lengthy history of missing its financial obligations". Besides, the airline has total dues amounting to ₹11,463 crore to its various creditors. While lessors are now rushing to take back their aircraft before the NCLT can impose a moratorium on claims, GoFirst is not the only low-cost carrier currently struggling with a grounded fleet. In the case of SpiceJet, its aircraft in operation are now down to about 47-50 out of a total fleet of 78-80 aircraft. Lessors have already taken back 20 of its aircraft owing to non-payment of dues. Besides, the grounding of aircraft has not resulted purely out of financial constraints. Engine and spare part issues have led to the grounding of 13% of the fleet of profit-making and market-leading IndiGo as well. Air India also has part of its fleet grounded. Supply chain troubles in the recent past have substantially affected all major players, with industry experts calling for ramping up the establishment of the Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) segment domestically. Captain G.R. Gopinath (retd), the founder of Air Deccan, points out that there are "labyrinthine taxes, customs, other duties and tortuous rules to be overcome to bring in parts, to facilitate repair and overhaul, and to re-export them or for use in aircraft here". The layers of costs associated with policy and infrastructural incapacity affect the viability of airlines which struggle to remain competitive.

No-fly zone

GoFirst airlines, which had rebranded itself two years ago, filed for bankruptcy with the National Company Law Tribunal last week. The unprecedented insolvency filing has brought India's aviation industry into the limelight. The charts below show the state of the industry and how it is trying to survive rising operational costs amid heavy competition

Chart 1: Airline losses during 2019-20 (In ₹ crore)



* Air India was state-run and had not been acquired by the Tatas in 2019-20; GoAir became GoFirst in 2021

Chart 2: The duration for which different airlines operated

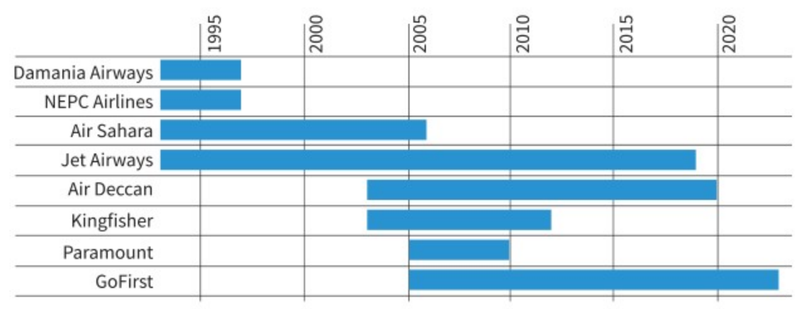
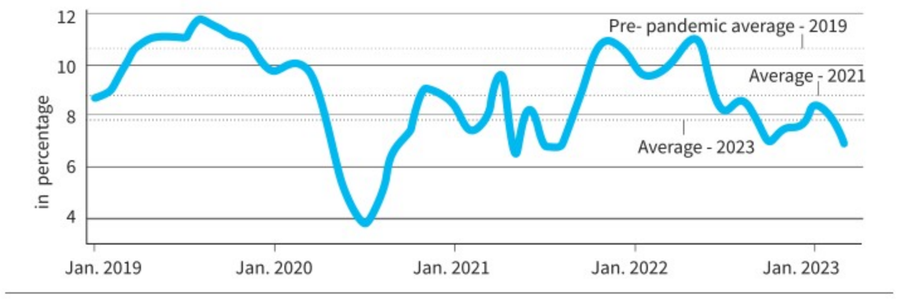


Chart 3: GoFirst's market share from 2019



THE GIST

- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on May 8, directed the airline to stop selling air tickets immediately. The DGCA issued GoFirst a showcause notice for its "failure to continue the operation of the service in a safe, efficient and reliable manner".
- Despite being touted as the 'fastest growing aviation sector' in the world, airlines in the country have struggled to survive in the highly competitive and unforgiving aviation industry. While travel restrictions during the pandemic badly hit the coffers of all carriers, their financials were in the red earlier as well.
- The layers of costs associated with policy and infrastructural incapacity affect the viability of airline which struggle to remain competitive.

NEW BEGINNING

ANI

A newly-wed couple after casting their votes at Periyapatna in Mysuru on Wednesday.

INKED

PTI

Infosys co-founder N.R. Narayan Murthy and his wife Sudha Murty after casting their votes in Bengaluru.

LEADING THE WAY

PTI

Actor Yash arrives to exercise his franchise at a polling station in Bengaluru.

STAR POWER

ANI

Actor Upendra shows his inked finger at a polling booth in Bengaluru.

Bengaluru's voter turnout remains poor; city records average of 54.43%

Among the four divisions, BBMP Central clocked 55.33%, BBMP North 52.27%, BBMP South 52.17 %, and Bengaluru Urban registered 56.82% polling in the elections to the Legislative Assembly

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Despite multiple campaigns and initiatives to improve voter participation by the Election Commission and the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Bengaluru did not buck the trend of low turnout as citizens failed to vote in large numbers in the State Assembly elections held on Wednesday.

All four divisions in the city recorded low estimated voter turnout. Bengaluru witnessed an average voter turnout of 54.43%. Among the four divisions, BBMP Central saw a turnout of 55.33%, BBMP North 52.27%, BBMP South 52.17 %, and Bengaluru Urban 56.82% voter turnout. Meanwhile, the Karnataka voter turnout was an estimated 72.68%.

The BBMP officials said the final turnout figures would be released on Thursday morning.

Against the 72.44% voter turnout in Karnataka during the 2018 Assembly elections, the four divisions in Bengaluru – BBMP South, North, Central and Bengaluru Urban – had recorded around 55% polling. Over 88% of the 8,615 polling stations in these four divisions (across the 28 Assembly constituencies) are in urban areas.

Voters queue up at Matadahalli in Bengaluru on Wednesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Voter turnout

Division	2013	2018	2023*
BBMP South	55.04%	51.98%	52.17%
BBMP North	56.58%	53.47%	52.27%
BBMP Central	57.71%	55.18%	55.33%
Bengaluru Urban	62.03%	57%	56.82%

*Excludes postal ballots and home voting | Source: Election Commission

In 2013 too, as against the 71.83% polling in the State, the IT hub had recorded 52.83% polling. In 2008, it was even worse, at 47.3% in the four Bengaluru electoral divisions.

While the voting percentage in BBMP South was 55.04% in 2013, it further fell to 51.98% in 2018.

In BBMP North, the voting percentage declined from 56.58 in 2013 to 53.47 in 2018.

Likewise, in BBMP Central, the voting percentage dropped from 57.71 in 2013 to 55.18 in 2018.

In Bengaluru Urban, it fell from 62.03% in 2013 to 57% in 2018. The highest turnout of 63.09% was recorded in Yeshwantpur, Similarly, both Yelahanka and Anekal, recorded 62.08% and 61.85% respectively.

The lowest is Bommanahalli with 46.82%, following are C.V. Raman Nagar and Sarvagnanagar recorded 47.44% and 51% respectively.

Electoral roll analyst P.G. Bhat attributed the poor voter turnout to the 'menace of missing names' of genuine voters. "Elections officials had deleted lakhs of entries in an effort to clean up the rolls. However, there have been many wrong deletions leading to the disenfranchisement of genuine voters," Mr. Bhat argued.

The Election Commission had fixed a mid-week day – Wednesday – to prevent people from taking advantage of the "voting day holiday" by clubbing it with the weekend. To increase voter turnout in the city, BBMP took up awareness activities such as electoral literacy clubs and voter awareness forums.

It was exciting and I felt like a step towards being a citizen in the society. Voting is important as it brings change which is very much required. It reminds you that you have power as a citizen in a democratic country.

RETHIKA DEVAIAH, K.R. Puram

Being a first-time voter, I felt much pride, and like a responsible citizen. I think voter awareness is of paramount importance as it subsequently leads to change and development.

CHANAKYA MAHADEV C.V. Raman nagar

It is a matter of pride to be able to choose our leaders. We should value our vote and not sell it, and bring to power someone who will do good to our constituency.

DURGA DEVI, Ramanagara

I thought about what policies would be better for the youth and what measures were necessary to achieve equality, before finalising my candidate.

ANTHAHKARANA, Shivamogga

I feel happy to be part of the election process. This time, I went with my uncle's suggestion. From now on, I will make my own choice.

ANKITA, Abbalagere

Poor show in urban pockets, enthusiasm in low-income and semi-urban areas

An 89-year-old voter flanked by her family at Rajarajeshwarinagar on Wednesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

While the run-up to the 2023 State Assembly elections in Karnataka saw high-pitched campaigns, the voting day saw less enthusiasm in some urban pockets, while in others, especially low-income areas and rural pockets, longer queues at polling booths signalled an eagerness about the process.

Bengaluru continued to script a sorry story with its poor voter turnout despite efforts from the authorities concerned as well as citizen groups.

Polling booths in several areas, more so the ones in upmarket areas, witnessed a slow day as voters turned up in sporadic numbers. Polling booths in areas such as Indiranagar, Koramangala, Mahadevapura, Bommanahalli and K.R. Puram saw smaller crowd.

Polling booth officials in Jayanagar said early in the morning, there were many people who cast their vote, but after 11 a.m., the numbers tapered down.

Political party workers complained that several apartments and gated communities in the city barred them from entering the premises during poll campaigns. "We were not allowed inside by the security. How will we expect people to turn up to cast their vote?" asked Murali, a political party booth-level worker.

Long queues

However, in semi-urban areas of Rajarajeshwarinagar (R.R. Nagar) and Yeshwantpur, there were long queues at polling stations even in the heat of the afternoon. There was a sense of accomplishment among both first-time voters and senior citizens. Many senior-citizen couples who supported each other to get to the polling stations attracted admiration from those around.

In Shanthinagar, Wilson Garden and Austin Town, the queue extended till the road.

At BET Convent polling booth in R.R. Nagar, three generations of women voted together. While 89-year-old Srimathi took aid of a wheelchair, her daughter Srivalli and granddaughter Srividya also came with her to cast their votes. Mothers with small babies were a common sight at many polling stations and so were young children who were growing impatient in some longer queues. At one of the stations at Yeshwanthpur, a saree-jewellery adorned woman came to the vote straight from her brother's wedding.

Towards the end of polling day, scenes of voters rushing to the booths were common.

With many BMTC buses deployed on poll duty, commuters face hardship

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) deploying its buses for election duty, commuters had a tough time on Wednesday to get public transport.

The BMTC had said that in view of the elections on May 10, it had deployed a substantial number of buses for election duty to the district administration and the Police Department. It had said that due to this, there could be disruption in the operation of bus services.

With lesser number of buses on the road, many had to rely on autorickshaws and cabs. However, many autorickshaws and cabs were also off the road as drivers had gone to their native places to cast their vote.

A resident of Basavanagudi, Ramesh P. could not book a ride on the app-based cab aggregators despite multiple attempts.

Fewer cabs, autos too

"I tried in vain for more than two hours to book a cab and then took an autorickshaw to reach my workplace. Finding an auto was also not easy as there were very few of them operating on Wednesday," said Mr. Ramesh.

Exorbitant fares

S.S. Vikas, who tried to book a cab from Banashankari, said there were no cabs available and the only option available with the taxi aggregators was autorickshaw. "The fare which was reflected on the apps was exorbitant. For a ride from Banashankari to the CBD, they were charging ₹450," said Mr. Vikas.

Voting before getting hitched

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Grooms and brides all dressed up were seen at polling booths to cast their vote on Wednesday.

Sahil Dhariwal, son of a trader, dressed in his wedding attire, cast his vote with his parents at Basavanagudi constituency.

Melita Soras, a bride from Udupi's Kapu constituency, arrived at the polling booth in a white gown to cast her vote.

Sagar in Shivamogga witnessed a bridegroom, Vinod, arriving at the polling booth to cast his vote just moments before he got hitched to Pallavi.

INBRIEF

Prayers offered to cylinder

As polling was held on Wednesday for the seven Assembly segments in Dharwad district, Congress members offered puja to LPG cylinders to remind the public about the soaring prices. Several units of Congress made it a point to follow the direction of KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar who had asked party members to offer puja to LPG cylinders to highlight the price rice and make an appeal to voters to compare the prices of the cylinders during Congress regime and the present government before voting.

Booths with many themes

The Election Commission had set up model polling booths on various themes, on art forms, women (Sakhi), youth empowerment, tribal culture, environmental awareness, and so on. To preserve Bidri art form and inculcate interest among voters, the Bidar District authorities had set up Bidri art model booths in the district.

Freebies returned in K.R. Pet

Some voters in K.R. Pet Assembly constituency in Mandya district returned the sarees allegedly gifted to them as an inducement for their support in the polling held on Wednesday. The villagers alleged that supporters of Minister K.C. Narayana Gowda, who is also the BJP candidate for K.R. Pet constituency, had distributed saris and chicken to voters in Ganjigere village of K.R. Pet taluk. The villagers were seen throwing the sarees in front of a house believed to belong to a supporter of the BJP candidate.

Language a barrier

At the Hampi Nagar ward of Vijayanagar constituency, voters were agitated as language barriers allegedly delayed the voting process at one of the booths. The voters said that while most of them were Kannada speakers, the election officials in the booth were bank officials who spoke only Hindi and there was a clear communication gap. Many of them complained about standing in the queue for longer durations. BBMP officials said the process was delayed as many senior citizens were arriving to vote.

Officers complain about food

Election Officers in Bengaluru South and Central district alleged that poor quality food was given to them at polling stations. "We objected the poor quality food on Tuesday before leaving to the polling station. But the district administration did not respond properly. The same was repeated in the night. They gave us half-cooked rice on Wednesday too," a Bommanahalli constituency election official said. However, the election officers in Rajajinagar constituency reported that despite the government's promise to give better facilities for them at polling stations, not much had changed. "They have provided toothpaste and toothbrushes this time. That is the only difference when compared to last time," the officers said.

Clashes reported in Kolar and other places

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Tense situation prevailed at Kooteri village in Kolar for sometime when villagers protested against police "high handedness" after a party worker sustained injuries while the police were taking him into the custody for violating the code of conduct.

The villagers gheraoed the police and surrounded the vehicle in protest. Additional police force was rushed to the spot to bring the situation under control.

The incident occurred when a police team on duty found a few party workers campaigning outside the poling booth. A heated argument ensued between the police and the group following which the police detained a Krishnappa. Enraged by this, the people started shouting slogans.

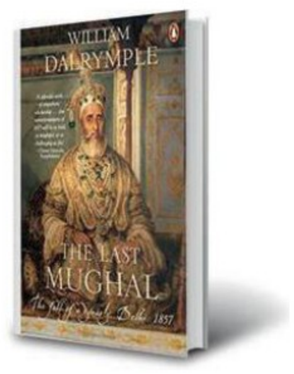
Campaigning

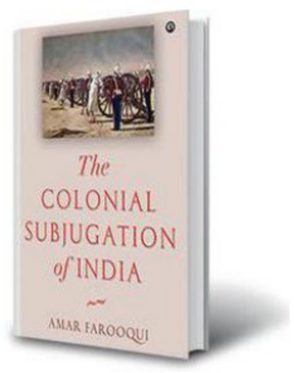
A similar incident was reported at Vemagal when two groups of party workers clashed accusing each other of campaigning outside the poling booth. The situation was soon brought under control.

A verbal spat also broke out between two groups belonging to the BJP and the Congress close to a polling booth at Papaiah Garden in Padmanabha Nagar.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The Indian Rebellion of 1857. GETTY IMAGES





The uprising of 1857, and Meerut's role in the first war for India's Independence

On May 10, 1857, Meerut showed India the way when sepoys revolted against British rule and began marching to Delhi which was the power centre, the capital of Mughal India. Here are a list of books which narrate the series of events which led to the rebellion

Ziya Us Salam

Alamgirpur in Meerut district should have been enough to provide the township in western Uttar Pradesh a passport to fame. It was the eastern most settlement of the Harappa civilisation, and was excavated by Y.D. Sharma. According to professors Katta Narasimha Reddy, E. Siva Nagi Reddy and Krishna Naik, the shape of the pottery of this region was comparable to that of Lothal, Ropar and Rangpur etc. "Kilnbricks are in evidence; large platters and trough with open base have also been found as also beads of steatite and semi-precious stones. Terracotta cakes are met in large numbers," write the authors in *Kalyan Mitra: Volume 1: Archaeology*.

Yet Meerut's fame rests not on beads and terracotta cakes no matter how ancient, but on bullets and blood, more accurately cartridges with possibly cow and pig fat, and rifles with which began India's First War of Independence on May 10, 1857. The British were well and truly in the saddle in the 19th century. A year after muskets were introduced in 1856, Lord Canning was planning to send back the 84th Regiment of the Army to Burma, when news came of a serious outbreak in Meerut which was, as G.W. Forrest writes in *A History of the Indian Mutiny* (published by William Blackwood), "situated 36 miles from the Imperial City of Delhi...traversed by two main roads, the one from Ghaziabad to Roorkee, and the Mall, lined with a fine avenue of lofty trees. On the north of the Mall are lines of barracks for the accommodation of a brigadier of artillery, a European cavalry corps and a regiment of European infantry." From here rose the first cry for the independence of India.

Why the sepoys rebelled

A day before Indian sepoys rose in rebellion in the month of Ramzan, Colonel Smyth had ordered cartridges to be handed out to 90 soldiers at the parade in Meerut. Five accepted, 85 refused, among them were 49 Muslims and 36 Hindus. The rebels were stripped of their uniform and fetters were hammered on their ankles. The rebellion was caused by the government's decision to replace the old-fashioned musket with the Enfield rifle. Locals believed the cartridges had a mix of fat of cows and pigs with flour. Their friends back home refused to eat with them; they became the new untouchables.

As John William Kaye writes in *A History of the Sepoy War in India 1857-58* (published by W.H. Allen, London), "The Native Troops at that great headquarters were smouldering into rebellion, and the Sepoy War was about to commence. The native troops, in fetters, were confined to an empty hospital, and a guard of their regiment was placed over them."

"That evening," as William Dalrymple writes in *The Last Mughal*, "placards were seen in the Meerut bazaar calling on all true Musalmans to rise up and slaughter the Christians."

"The native troopers at once prepared for a revolt from the English rule and in order to rescue their comrades, resolved to dare the worst extremity. The opportunity was well chosen. The next day, May 10th being Sunday, while the European residents of Meerut were driving to church in the evening, they were startled at hearing the sound of musketry, and seeing the columns of smoke rising to the sky. That sound marked the opening of the Indian Mutiny. The native troops had revolted," Forrest writes.

The argument finds favour with Amar Farooqui who writes in *The Colonial Subjugation of India*: "It was the month of Ramzan. Towards sunset the sipahis were in the bazaar buying goods for Iftaar. In a couple of hours, the entire cantonment and the civilians had joined the uprising. The sipahis travelled through the night. They wanted to march to Delhi." For every Indian in Meerut, Delhi was the power centre, the capital of Mughal India. The Meerut sepoys had not only risen but had also ridden southeastwards throughout the night, and as Dalrymple notes, "at the very moment were pouring over the Bridge of Boats, and into the walled city, in search of their emperor." Meerut had shown India the way.

As they reached Delhi, the locals were finishing their suhoor or pre-dawn meal before commencing a 15-hour long fast, and not a 12-hour fast as Dalrymple writes. In Delhi, the working class joined the sipahis, the elite preferred to weigh their options. In Meerut, all civilians had joined the fray. Reason enough for V.D. Savarkar to dub the Mutiny or Revolt as the First war of Independence in his book, *The Indian War of Independence*, written in early 20th century.

Behind the name

Glorious as the chapter is, there is more to Meerut's history. It probably derives its name from Mayarashtra, the capital of the kingdom of Mayasura, Ravana's father-in-law. This name later journeyed to Mairashtra, Mairaath and eventually Meerut. After archaeological excavations at Vidura-ka-tila, a collection of several mounds named after Vidura, in 1950–52, a site 37 km northeast of Meerut, was concluded to be the remains of the ancient Hastinapur, the capital of Kauravas and Pandavas of the Mahabharata, which was washed away by the floods. Once ruled by the Scindias, Meerut was ceded to the British in 1803. Some 54 years later, it paved the way for the eventual ouster of the British from India.

Alamgirpur, Mahabharata, May 10, 1857, Meerut has many calling cards.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

The WHO has declared that COVID-19 is no longer a public health emergency of international concern. Here is a quiz on other infectious diseases through the ages

Ramya Kannan

QUESTION 1

This infectious disease finds mention in the Bible, and in the novel *Ben Hur: A Tale of the Christ.* In the book, the protagonist's mother and sister contract this disease and are expelled from the city because of the stigma surrounding their condition. What is the disease?

QUESTION 2

This piece of personal protective equipment originated during the Manchurian epidemic. Versions of it were deployed in COVID-19 wards, as it was said to be life saving. Firefighters and workers in toxic environments also use it. What are we talking about?

QUESTION 3

Last year, a team of researchers discovered pseudomonas bacteria with genes that give them natural antibiotic and antimicrobial resistance in X. It was rationalised that this happened in X, an area impacted by melting ice. What is X?

QUESTION 4

After exposure to this infection, there is an incubation period. Once the symptoms appear, the disease is near fatal, with only a few documented cases of survival. What is this condition?

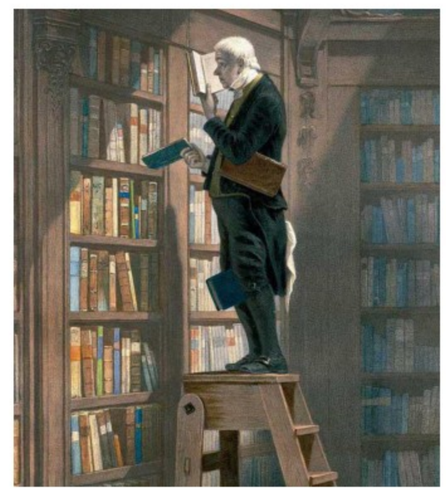
QUESTION 5

In the summer of 1995, Dr. Rajendra Prasad and two of his medical colleagues landed up at Dantewada to study a neglected tropical disease that they heard had sprung up in the area. They examined about 12 cases and their suspicions were confirmed. India managed to eliminate this disease caused by a bacteria, in 2004. Name the disease.

Visual question:

The Google Doodle of March 10, 2021 celebrated the birthday of a Chinese epidemiologist. He invented something that was essential during COVID. Who was this and what did he invent?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The system of institutionalised racial segregation that existed in South Africa from 1948 to the early 1990s. **Ans: Apartheid**
2. In 1956, during a trial in Johannesburg for this reason against 156 people, this person was exiled. **Ans: Treason; Oliver Tambo**
3. This trial in South Africa led to the imprisonment of Mandela. **Ans: Rivonia Trial**
4. The name of the three-hour speech given by Mandela at the trial that sentenced him to prison. **Ans: I am Prepared to Die**
5. The significance of 46664. **Ans: Mandela was imprisoned in 1964. He was the 466th prisoner that year. His prison number remained 466/64 until 1982**
Visual: This actor played Mandela in this film. **Ans: Idris Elba, *Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom*. The film is based on Mandela's book *Long Walk to Freedom***
Early Birds: Indra Sharma| Anushka Saxena| Shubhkaramdeep Singh| Kevin Toms Skaria| Adya Upasana Routray



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Prof. S. Jagadeesan, 8, Rameswaram Road, T. Nagar, Madras, wants to know whether the following are acceptable: (a) awardees (b) standees (c) presentees (d) women cum children (e) He has gone to foreign."

"'Awardees,' 'standees' and 'presentees' are in use and are acceptable. They have found their way into some dictionaries. 'Awardee' is 'a person who receives an award.' 'Presentee' is 'a person who is presented or to whom something is presented.' 'Standee' is 'someone who occupies standing room.' 'cum' is inappropriate in 'women cum children.' It should be 'women and children.' 'Cum' is used as 'a combining word to indicate a dual nature or function.' It means 'combined with,' 'along with.'

It is a dining cum drawing room.

This is a house cum office.

He has gone abroad and not 'he has gone to foreign.'

He has come from a foreign country.

He has gone to a foreign country or he has gone abroad."

"Mr. V. C. Goud, APS 3, AFCAO, Subrato Park, New Delhi, wants to know (a) the ' difference between 'Please come' and 'do come' (b) the meaning of 'panjandrum.'"

" 'Please come' is a request. 'Do come' expresses emphasis. 'Do' is used in affirmative sentences to connote emphasis.

Please see me tomorrow. Please do see me tomorrow.

Be careful. Do be careful.

It makes a difference. It does make a difference.

'Panjandrum' is 'a name applied humorously to a powerful personage or a pompous official.' Grand Panjandrum is the title of an imaginary personage in some nonsense lines written by Samuel Foote, an English actor and dramatist of the 18th century. The two 'a's in the word are pronounced like the 'a' in 'man'; the 'u' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'China'; the 'j' is pronounced like the 'j' in 'judge.' The stress is on the second syllable."

"Ms. A. Rachel, Sainagar, Anantapur, wants to know the pronunciation of 'leopard.'"

"'eo' is pronounced like the 'e' in 'bed'; the 'a' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'China'; the 'r' is silent. The stress is on the first syllable."

"The following letter appeared in *The Listener* of December 3, 1987: "It is just as well that the days of duelling are past, or blood would have had to be spilt; yours or mine. In *The Listener* November 5, you have me saying, 'For we Scots, James Mackay was etc., etc.'. I am incapable of such a solecism. My tongue would wither at the root. What I wrote, and said, was, 'For us Scots...' Please check the script and acknowledge this heinous editorial 'correction.' Failing that, pistols at daybreak." Wish you a happy prosperous and peaceful New Year."

Word of the day

Straddle:
a noncommittal or equivocal position; the act of sitting or standing astride; the option to buy or sell a given stock (or stock index or commodity future) at a given price before a given date; range or extend over; occupy a certain area

Synonyms: span, range

Usage: *The plants straddle the entire state.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/straddlepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈstɹæd.əl/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Vote from Home: A missed opportunity for many

In many districts, there was a common complaint that neither election officials nor the local administration visited their homes to provide them the forms to vote from home

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A woman being carried to the booth in Channapatna constituency on Wednesday. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

For some, it was a point of pride or a sense of duty, and for some others, it was a lack of awareness as many senior citizens aged above 80 and Persons with Disabilities (PwD) came to the voting booths instead of choosing the novel postal ballot option provided to them during this year's election. Across the State, it was a common sight for these people, including nonagenarians and centenarians, to arrive at the voting stations and either take the help of wheelchair or family members to cast their vote.

Nonagenarian Ameenabi Dhavalagi, 90, did not have the strength to stand for long but was keen to participate in the electoral process. "What is the use of my life if I do not vote?" she asked, sitting outside the polling booth on Gokul Road in Hubballi.

According to a release put out by the Election Commission prior to polling day, 76,120 of the total 12,15,920 senior citizens aged above 80, and 18,811 PwD out of total 5,71,281 had voted through the postal ballot method.

Mahadevamma, an 88-year-old senior citizen at Mahalakshmi Layout constituency, lamented that no one came to her house and offered her the option to vote from home. However, she made it to the booth as she did not want to miss the chance to vote.

No awareness

In many districts, there was a common complaint that election officials nor anyone from local administration visited their homes to provide them the forms to vote from home nor was any awareness created about the method.

Gadigeppa, who brought his 88-year-old mother Kalamma to the booth at Government Higher Primary School in Shikaripura of Shivamogga district, said he was not aware of the facility. "No government staff visited our house to inquire about the elderly voters," he said. Ms. Kalamma reached the polling booth in an autorickshaw. A policeman helped her to the polling booth from the gate.

In Ramanagara district, Usha Rani, a person with disability, said: "We don't have any information about home voting facilities. Nobody told us about this, and nobody came to our doorstep in this regard. I came to vote with help from my son."

Specially-abled Gopi R., 30, came with his mother Radha to cast his vote at the polling booth at Tilaknagar in Bengaluru. Mr. Gopi said there was no wheelchair available at the polling station.

Some others did not opt for the facility by choice. For example, Shivanna, an 82-year-old voter at Vijayanagar constituency, said he was afraid that his choice would be changed or manipulated if he voted through postal ballot. Hence, he came to the polling booth. While there, he said that the options on the EVM were not clearly visible to him, and he did not receive much assistance from officials.

For a few more senior citizens, it was about continuing their decades-long tradition of going to the polling booth. One among them was 107-year-old agriculturist Mijaraguthu Anand Alva in Moodbidri (father of Alva's Education Foundation chairman M. Mohan Alva). After he cast his vote, one of his close aides, told *The Hindu:* "He has never missed voting in any election."

Wadiyars, SVEEP Icons vote, send a message

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The erstwhile Mysuru royal family members exercised their franchise at Srikanta School in Krishnaraja Assembly constituency here.

Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar and his wife Trishika Kumari Wadiyar cast their votes. People waiting at the booth went to the couple and took selfies.

Speaking to reporters, Mr. Wadiyar said the festival of democracy will become successful if everyone votes without fail.

Ms. Pramoda Devi Wadiyar also voted at the same booth in Srikanta School. She had to wait in her car for some time as her assistant went to the palace to get her voter ID card. She later visited the booth with her ID and cast her ballot.

Former international cricketer Javagal Srinath, who is the SVEEP Icon in Mysuru, cast his vote at Gnanaganga High School in Kuvempunagar. Yoga exponent Kushi, who is also a SVEEP Icon, exercised her franchise as a fist-time voter in Vijayanagar here.

Mr. Srinath later distributed certificates to first-time voters. SVEEP Nodal Officer K.M. Gayathri was present.

The first-time voters were excited to cast their votes in the election.

Most of them had come with the newly-issued voters' IDs to the booths to cast their ballots.

Remote, yet connected to the mainstream

File photo of Nagarahole Tiger Reserve.

R. Krishna Kumar
MYSURU

Polling ensured for tribals at remote village in Nagarahole Tiger Reserve where tigers, elephants move around

Voting was "brisk" in a remote place deep within Nagarahole tiger reserve where a polling booth was established. By 9 a.m. 7.69% of the eligible voters had exercised their franchise and the polling percentage not only matched the figures in urban areas but was higher compared to the figures in some towns and cities.

But on converting the percentage into actual numbers it transpires that "exactly 1 person" had voted by 9 a.m. two hours after the polliing began. For, this polling station located in Moorkal in the core area of Nagarahole and coming under Virajpet Assembly constituency has only 13 voters. And all are from the nearby Kollangere village.

The Election Commission in compliance with its own rules that no eligible voter should be left out and no voter should be more than 2 km from the polling booth, had made due arrangements at the Moorkal's Government Higher Primary School - which has two students and one teacher. During the 2018 Assembly elections, there were 29 voters from the village and since then some of them have either relocated to the forest fringes or have died.

There were as many as 10 staff manning the booth including six armed persons drawn from the CRPF who were posted there. All the staff along with the EVMs, indelible inks reached the polling station the previous day and the booth was set up. They conducted a mock round early to ensure the system was fully functional and the station opened at 7 a.m and waited. And waited. Two hours later, the first voter turned up.

Returning Officer Shabhana M. Shaik said that though there are a few more polling stations in remote areas in Kodagu, Moorkal in Nagarahole had the least number of voters. Officials confirmed that by 4 p.m. the polling percentage had "increased'.

S. Sreekanth of Development through Education (DEED), an NGO based in Hunsur and advocating tribal rights, said there are about 5 to 6 families in the remote village ensconced by forests and visited by tigers and leopards. No candidate has ever campaigned in these remote areas and the adivasis with their limited needs subsist on forest produce besides the ration kit provided by the Tribal Welfare department. There is no electricity though there is a borewell in the hamlet.

But notwithstanding the government's offer of relocation, which is voluntary, the families have refused to relocate. And as long as there are eligible voters in Kollangere, the Election Commission will ensure that there is a polling station at Moorkal.

Perks of voting: Free cakes, 'benne dose', movie tickets

Swathi Nair
BENGALURU

As many as 5,300 voters were treated to free servings of delightful benne dose, Mysore Pak, and refreshing watermelon juice on Wednesday in Bengaluru. Additionally, more than 500 individuals enjoyed exclusive discounts on bakery items, while another 200 people benefited from reduced prices on amusement park tickets. These special privileges were granted to those who proudly displayed their inked fingers after participating in the Assembly election.

Krishnaraj S.P., owner of Nisarga Grand Hotel, expressed his joy as he fulfilled his promise to serve free 'khali benne dose', juice, and Mysore Pak to voters from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. He said, "I am extremely delighted that I was able to play a small part in encouraging people to come out and vote." The restaurant welcomed 5,300 voters who availed themselves of this generous offer, surpassing the 5,100 voters served during the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Actors Sundar Raj and Ramesh Bhat, music director K. Kalyan, as well as Kannada poet Dr. Dodda Range Gowda, were among those who took up the offer. Throughout the day, long queues of voters stretched from the entry gate. Additionally, as an added incentive, the first 100 first-time voters who arrived at the restaurant were given free Kannada movie tickets.

On May 9, the Karnataka High Court temporarily blocked a press release issued by the District Election Officer's office that cautioned hoteliers against providing free or discounted food to voters. However, the court allowed hoteliers to make offers without any political association or taking credit for their actions.

Cakewala, a bakery, also organised a voter drive, offering a 10% discount on all bakery items to customers who voted and presented an ink mark along with their voter ID card.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, MAY. 11	
RISE 05:56	SET 18:37
RISE 00:00	SET 11:02
FRIDAY, MAY. 12	
RISE 05:55	SET 18:37
RISE 00:21	SET 12:04
SATURDAY, MAY. 13	
RISE 05:55	SET 18:37
RISE 01:11	SET 13:03

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	26
Mysuru	33	24
Bengaluru	33	21

Bengaluru Today
30°C The weather will be slight warm and humid. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C Morning will be pleasant with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm and humid. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

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THE HINDU
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APPENDIX IV-A [SEE PROVISO TO RULE 8(6)]
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described secured asset is mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken on **15.03.2023** by the Authorised Officer of M/s. IndusInd Bank Ltd. The secured property, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"basis on **13.06.2023** for recovery of **Rs.6,70,68,896.46/- (Rupees Six Crore Seventy Lakhs Sixty EightThousand Eight Hundred Ninety Six and Paisa Forty Six Only) as on 30.04.2023** with further interest at the contractual rate and costs, charges and expenses due to IndusInd Bank Ltd., from the borrower **M/s. Nishi Forex and Leisure Private Limited and guarantors Mr. Ramachandra. K, Mr. Arjun Anantha, Mrs. Aruna Ananth.**

Description of Immovable properties : Property of M/s Nishi Forex and Leisure Pvt Ltd Rep. by its Director Mr. K. Ramachandra S/o. Late Kuppanna (Absolute Sale Deed Document No: 9087 of 2018-19, dated 21-03-2019) All that piece and parcel of the immovable property consisting of land with commercial building bearing new Municipal No.43, BBMP PID No.46-13-43, situated at 3rd main road, N T PET (New Tharagupet) Bangalore measuring in all about 2431 Sq. feet and **bounded on the:** East by: Property bearing Municipal No.72 belongs to Sri. B. A Anantharajan, West by : Road, North by : Property belongs to Sri. B.N. Ananthaswamy, South by : Property belongs to Sri. B.S. Siddalingappa and others. The building consists of Ground Floor 2200 Sq. feet and First Floor 2200 Sq. feet.

Reserve Price: Rs.6,59,00,000/- (Rupees Six Crore Fifty Nine Lakhs Only)
Earnest Money Deposit: Rs.65,90,000/- (Rupees Sixty Five Lakhs Ninety Thousand Only)

Known encumbrance, if any	NIL to the knowledge of the bank.
Claims, if any, which have been put forward against the property and any other dues known to Secured creditor and value	Not Known to the best of knowledge of the Bank.
Inspection of Property	05/06/2023 between 11.00 a.m. to 01.00 p.m.
Contact Person and Phone No : Mr. D Vardaraj(Authorized Officer), Mobile No: 9966078652 and Bank officer Mr. Chakradhari Shubham, Mobile No: 9304376755	
Last date for submission of Bid/Bid:	12/06/2023 till 04.00 PM
Time and Venue of Bid Opening	E-Auction/Bidding through website (https://www.bankeauctions.com) on 13/06/2023from 11.00 am to 11.30 am

For detailed terms & conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Secured Creditors website i.e. **https://www.indusind.com** for detailed terms & conditions of e-auction/sale of respective property and other details before submitting their bids for taking part in the e-auction. Bidders may also visit the website **https://www.bankeauctions.com** or contact service provider **M/s. C1 India Private Limited. Bidder Support Nos.: 0124-4302020 / 21 / 22, +91 7291981124 / 1125 / 1126; email: support@bankeauctions.com, Mr. Hareesh Gowda, Contact No. +91 9594597555 & Mr.Prabakaran, Contact No. +91 74182 81709.**

This notice of 30 days is being given to all of you in compliance of Rule 8, sub rule 6 of SARFAESI Rules under the SARFAESI Act 2002

Place: Bangalore, Date: 05/05/2023 — Sd/Authorised Officer, Indusind Bank Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Divya Sridhar Rao & Sridhar Rao Muthyam,** S/o late Sri G. Subba Rao, r/o No.235 (12), 7th Main Road, Near Sita Circle, Nagendra Block, BSK III Stage, Bengaluru-560050, **Ph:98453-01718** has contracted to buy the property described in the schedule below from Smt.Latha B, D/o Sri K.J. Boraiah &W/o M.R. Vasudeva aged about 58 years, was a resident of Rudrakshipura village,Athagur Hobli, Maddur Taluk, Mandya District. Currently residing at: 97/41, 15th Cross, 11th Main Nu Hospital, Padmanabhanagar BSK 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560070

Any person(s), authority(s), financial institution(s), etc., having any interest or claim in the property described in the schedule or opposing the sale transaction in any manner, may lodge objections in writing with relevant documentary proof to my client's address mentioned above within **15 DAYS** from the date of publication of this public notice. If objections are not received within the time limit, it will be presumed that there are no impediments to concluding the sale transaction & the schedule property is free from all encumbrances.

SCHEDULE

All that piece & parcel of converted land measuring **8.77 guntas or East to West 24 meters & North to South 37 meters in Survey No. 51/1 of Gubbalalu village, Uttara halli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk,** now within the limits of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Ward No.184-Uttarahalli, Bearing property No.14 & bounded on:

East by : Property No.15
West by : Property No.13
North by: Road,
South by: Property No.48.

V.M. LAKSHMIPATHI, ADVOCATE
No. 26, I Floor, 'Krishnarpana Building' Dattatreya Cross Road, Bull Temple Rd, Basavanagudi, Blore-4 **Mob: 9341315815**

Place: Bengaluru, Date: 06.05.2023

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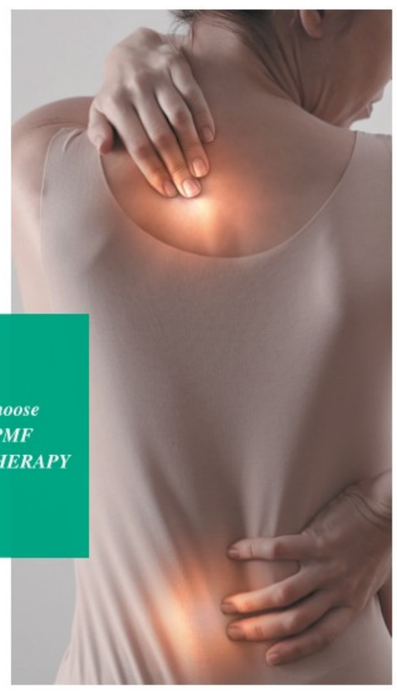

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CASTING VOTE

PTI

The former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda with his wife, Chennamma, at a polling station in Hassan district on Wednesday.

FOR THE ALBUM

ANI

BJP veteran B.S. Yediyurappa with his family members after voting at Shikaripur in Shivamogga district.

SHOWING THE MARK

ANI

AICC president M. Mallikarjun Kharge and his wife, Radhabai Kharge, after exercising their franchise in Kalaburagi.

ALL SMILES

PTI

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai with his family after voting in Shiggaon, Haveri district.

INBRIEF

Woman gives birth at polling station in Ballari district

A woman gave birth at a polling station at Korlagundi village in Kampli Assembly constituency, Ballari district.

Manila, who was at an advanced stage of pregnancy, developed labour pain when she was in the polling station to exercise her franchise. She was immediately taken to the adjacent room and provided with the necessary care. She gave birth to a boy. The mother and baby were later taken to a nearby Primary Health Centre, said polling officials.

Deaths haunt polling day

Two people lost their lives – one just before casting the vote and another just after – in Karnataka on Wednesday. Paravva Singale, 70, collapsed due to low blood pressure and died while walking to the polling booth at Yarazaravi near Saundatti in Belagavi district. Another voter, 49-year-old Jayanna, died minutes after voting at Chikkole in Belur taluk of Hassan district.

Siddaramaiah gets his right finger inked

The former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who is contesting from the Varuna constituency, got the indelible ink applied on his right forefinger instead of the left on medical grounds while casting his vote in his village, Siddaramanahundi, under the same constituency.

Due to a viral infection, the former Chief Minister is believed to be suffering from pain in his left hand. He had worn a sling and cited this medical condition while interacting with media persons.

The application of ink on his right forefinger led to curious discussions. The Mysuru district administration clarified that under Rule 49K, the ink was applied on the right forefinger of Mr. Siddaramaiah after he told the presiding officer about his medical condition.

Misunderstanding over EVMs

Tension prevailed at Masabinal in Vijayapura district after a mob damaged EVMs and toppled an officer's car, wrongly believing that officials had taken the ballot unit away, after stopping polling midway.

When three officers took away two EVMs and loaded them into a car, the crowd around thought that they were taking them away, before completing the polling process. However, the units were spare ones kept for emergency.

The police had to resort to lathi-charge to disperse the crowd. Deputy Commissioner Vijaymahantesh Danammanavar said polling was not affected and the situation was brought under control soon.

BJP, Congress leaders express confidence of getting majority

Chief Minister Bommai seeks to downplay the exit polls that have predicted a fractured mandate

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Both the BJP and Congress expressed confidence of securing a majority on their own as the State went to the Assembly polls on Wednesday.

Seeking to downplay the exit polls that have predicted a hung Assembly with a slight edge for the Congress, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai maintained that the exit polls were bound to see a variance of 5% to 10% when compared with the final results. "Let us wait for the actual declaration of results on May 13. The BJP is bound to get majority. There is no possibility of the Janata Dal (S) turning out to be a kingmaker," he said.

At the same time, Congress leaders Siddaramaiah and D.K. Shivakumar too maintained that their party would form the government on its own.

'No need for alliance'

Mr. Shivakumar, who is KPCC president, went a step ahead and ruled out any possibility of having a post-poll alliance with the JD(S), stating that his party would reach the halfway mark on its own.

Meanwhile, AICC general secretary in charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala tweeted: "Mood of Karnataka is a clear vote against incompetence, maladministration and corruption. Mood of Karnataka is a clear vote for governance and progress. The Congress is going to win and win big."

The day saw several prominent political leaders, including Mr. Bommai, AICC president M. Mallikarjun Kharge, Mr. Siddaramaiah, former Chief Ministers B.S. Yediyurappa and H.D. Kumaraswamy, JD(S) supremo H.D. Deve Gowda and Mr. Shivakumar exercising their franchise along with family members.

Queuing up: People waiting to cast their votes at BET Convent in Rajarajeshwarinagar, for the Assembly elections in Bengaluru on Wednesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

All with families

The Chief Minister exercised his franchise at the government model school in Shiggaon along with his wife, son, and daughter.

Mr. Kharge, along with his wife, Radhabai Kharge, cast his vote at Basavanagar in Kalaburagi while Mr. Siddaramaiah voted at a booth at a public school in his native Siddaramanahundi in Varuna constituency. Mr. Yediyurappa cast his vote in Shikaripur along with his two sons, while Mr. Kumaraswamy exercised his franchise at Ketaganahalli in Ramanagara taluk along with his wife, son, and daughter-in-law. Another Chief Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda voted in Bengaluru with his family members.

Nonagenarian votes

Mr. Deve Gowda, who will turn 91 soon, cast his vote at Paduvalahippe in Holenarasipur taluk of Hassan district. "The results of the election will come out on May 13. Kumaraswamy's Pancharathna Yatra received an impressive response. I am hopeful that people will express confidence in him," the former Prime Minister said.

Seizures worth ₹463 cr. made since imposition of MCC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

This apart, the Enforcement Directorate attached ₹288 crore worth of assets since the second week of March

As Karnataka went to the polls on Wednesday after a fiercely fought campaign by the parties, the Election Commission has said that a whopping over ₹463 crore worth cash, liquor, jewellery, drugs, and freebies were seized since the second week of March while the Enforcement Directorate attached ₹288 crore worth of assets.

The Election Commission said that the total seizures since the model code of conduct (MCC) came into force has been 4.5 times higher than that done in 2018.

While about ₹83.93 crore worth of cash, jewellery, liquor, and freebies had been seized in 2018, this year, the number shot up to about ₹380 crore. This apart, the Enforcement Directorate has attached ₹288 crore worth of assets after imposition of the MCC.

₹147.46 crore in cash

The seizures in 2023 include ₹147.46 crore in cash, 22.27 lakh litres of liquor worth ₹83.66 crore, narcotics worth ₹23.67 crore, precious metal worth ₹96.6 crore, and freebies worth ₹24.21 crore.

Besides, ₹83.78 crore worth of cash and articles were seized between the second week of March when the Election Commission officials visited Karnataka and March 29 when the MCC came into effect after the dates of the election were announced.

100 kg ganja

An Election Commission press note observed that notable hauls included seizure of ₹4.04 crore in cash in Bangarpet Assembly constituency in Kolar district, raid on illegal manufacturing of Alprozolam in Hyderabad through intelligence gathering and trail mapping done by the NCB, and seizure of 100 kg ganja in Bidar district.

Saris and food kits

Another notable feature this time was huge seizures of saris and food kits from Kalaburagi, Chikkamagaluru and other districts, pressure cookers and other kitchen appliances from Bailhongal and Kunigal Assembly constituencies, and sewing machines from Savadatti-Yellamma Assembly constituency. Seizure of cash, liquor, drugs, precious metals, and freebies from border checkposts was more than ₹70 crore, according to the press note.

Polling officer changed

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

A polling officer who wrongly cast a woman's vote at Chamanur village in Chittapur constituency of Kalaburagi district was replaced after Congress candidate Priyank Kharge intervened.

Basamma Entuman sought the help of the polling officer, B.C. Chauhan, to cast her vote in favour of Mr. Kharge. However, the officer wrongly cast the vote in favour of the BJP candidate, Manikanth Rathod. The woman who noticed it took objection. It led to a heated exchange of words between Congress activists and the polling staff. Election officer Naveen Kumar was later replaced.

Only three vote in Kanasinakatte

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Only three people voted in Kanasinakatte village in Bhadravati taluk, where the residents had boycotted the elections due to the lack of basic amenities.

The villagers had put up a banner asking candidates and their supporters not to enter the village for campaigning. *The Hindu* had carried a report on the demands of the residents.

The poll officials tried to convince the residents to change their minds. However, they did not. In the meantime, three people cast their votes. Karibasavaiah, a member of Sanyasi Kodamaggi gram panchayat, told *The Hindu* over the phone that only three people voted.

Hakki Pikki tribals evacuated from Sudan participate in polls

Many of them recounted the frightening ordeal they endured in the war-torn country and said they are relieved to be back home

Laiqh A. Khan
MYSURU

Participating in the Legislative Assembly elections in Karnataka may have been the last thing on the minds of the Hakki Pikki tribals from different parts of Karnataka who were stranded in war-torn Sudan.

Back in their village of Pakshirajapura in Hunsur taluk near here days after their evacuation from the conflict zone in Sudan under Operation Kaveri, the Hakki Pikki tribals were preparing to cast their votes in the local polling booth on Wednesday morning.

"We are relieved to be back. We were staying in a lodge in Khartoum when fighting broke out and raged on incessantly, spreading panic and anxiety among us," said Shilavathi, who was among the 60 to 70 Hakki Pikki tribals who returned to Pakshirajapura in different batches over the last few days.

At home: Hakki Pikki tribals evacuated from Sudan in their village, Pakshirajapura, in Hunsur taluk of Mysuru district. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Recounting her frightening ordeal trapped in the Khartoum lodge, Ms. Shilavathi said they were forced to endure food and drinking water scarcity amid the absence of electricity while heavy gunfire and air bombardment raged all around them.

Trapped for nearly a week

She was joined by Madan, Nagina, Airaj, and Naseema, all Hakki Pikki tribals hailing from Pakshirajapura, who expressed relief over their successful evacuation. "After being trapped in the lodge for about a week, we were driven for several hours from Khartoum to Port Sudan from where we were put on a flight to Jeddah before reaching Bengaluru just a few days ago," said Mr. Airaj.

Ms. Shilavathi said she visits to not only Sudan and other African countries such as Gabon, but also destinations such as Dubai, Muscat, Kuwait, and even London to sell herbal hair oil. "Whenever I visit a country, I stay for two to five months. Our products such as the herbal hair oil enjoy a good demand in these countries," she said.

Raised loans

Another tribal person said they had raised loans to visit Sudan with herbal products but had to cut short the visit on account of the fighting and incur losses.

Mr. Airaj said their ancestors hailed from Gujarat while Ms. Shilavathi said they speak a language that was a mix of Gujarati, Marathi, and Hindi, besides the local Kannada.

House surgeon stabbed to death in Kerala

The accused is a schoolteacher who was brought to the hospital by the police after being injured in a brawl; after a home guard and ASI were stabbed, other staff rushed to a room and shut the door but the house surgeon could not flee; State witnesses protests; doctors boycott services

The Hindu Bureau
KOLLAM

In a shocking incident, a house surgeon was stabbed to death while many others sustained injuries when a patient attacked them with a pair of scissors at the Kottarakara taluk hospital in Kollam district on Wednesday.

Though Vandana Das, 25, a Kottayam resident, was rushed to a private hospital in Thiruvananthapuram, she could not be saved. She sustained multiple stab wounds causing severe internal injuries.

Around 4.30 a.m., S. Sandeep, a 42-year-old school teacher, was brought to the hospital by the police as he was injured in a brawl. The accused was under de-addiction treatment and he attacked the staff with a pair of surgical scissors he grabbed from the hospital while they were dressing his wound. After stabbing a police inspector and a home guard, the accused attacked several other employees and vandalised the hospital.

'Not a detainee'

Additional Director-General of Police M.R. Ajithkumar said that the accused was not a police detainee but a complainant when he was taken to the hospital.

Vandana Das

"The accused called the police emergency number at midnight seeking the help of the police and complaining he was being attacked. When the night patrolling party tried to contact the number, it was switched off. Later, he called from another number and when the police team reached the location, they found him injured. He was taken to the hospital by the police. A relative also accompanied them. While he was being treated he was calm, but later he became violent without any provocation and attacked his relative. After a home guard and an ASI were stabbed, other staff rushed to another room and closed the door. But Dr. Vandana could not flee," Mr. Ajithkumar said.

Widespread protests erupted across the State following the incident. Doctors boycotted all services, except emergency services, on Wednesday.

The Paripally Medical College Hospital witnessed tense moments when accused was taken there by the police for a medical examination. Sandeep was later produced before the court and remanded in judicial custody.

High Court flays police

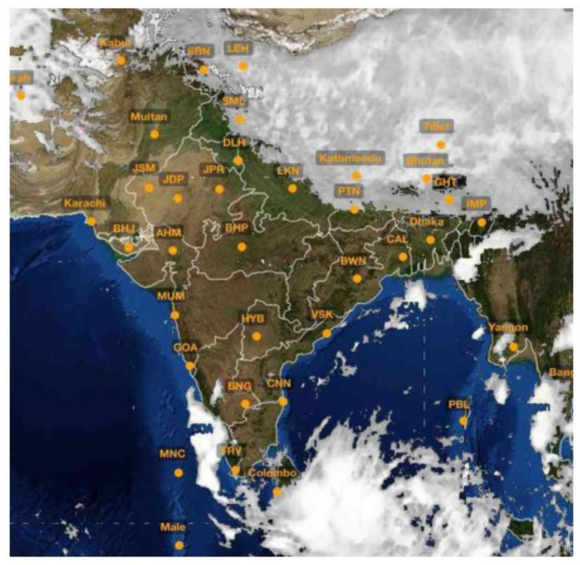
The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Slamming the police for their failure to prevent the murder of house surgeon Vandana Das at the Kottarakara taluk hospital, a Division Bench of the Kerala High Court on Wednesday directed the State Police Chief to appear before it online on Thursday and file a report on the incident.

The Bench of Justice Devan Ramachandran and Justice Kauser Edappagath also directed the Judicial First Class Magistrate, Kottarakara, to visit the hospital and conduct a physical inspection and file a report.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 19.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over south interior Karnataka, Kerala, Mahe and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over south interior Karnataka, Kerala and Mahe. Heat wave conditions likely in isolated pockets over Bihar and West Bengal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	40.0	26.8	Kozhikode	4	36.6	27.9
Ahmedabad	—	43.5	23.4	Kurnool	—	39.6	27.4
Aizawl	—	37.8	19.5	Lucknow	—	40.0	22.7
Allahabad	—	43.2	21.5	Madurai	3	35.8	23.8
Bengaluru	0.6	33.4	22.3	Mangaluru	0.4	35.0	25.3
Bhopal	—	—	22.5	Mumbai	—	33.9	27.2
Bhubaneswar	—	38.6	26.8	Mysuru	—	35.4	20.8
Chandigarh	—	36.3	19.5	New Delhi	—	36.7	20.9
Chennai	—	37.5	27.7	Patna	—	41.4	23.4
Coimbatore	—	35.8	25.0	Port Blair	1	32.6	27.2
Dehradun	0.2	33.2	16.4	Puducherry	—	35.2	27.6
Gangtok	15	24.0	14.2	Pune	—	40.1	25.5
Goa	—	35.9	27.5	Raipur	—	39.8	26.9
Guwahati	—	36.9	23.3	Ranchi	—	39.0	25.8
Hubballi	—	35.0	25.0	Shillong	—	27.2	17.6
Hyderabad	—	36.6	27.8	Shimla	8	23.0	8.4
Imphal	—	35.7	19.6	Srinagar	—	23.8	6.4
Jaipur	—	39.2	23.4	Thiruvananthapuram	37	34.0	24.0
Kochi	—	32.8	26.6	Tiruchi	2	36.9	25.6
Kohima	—	30.0	18.7	Vijayawada	—	38.6	28.0
Kolkata	—	39.5	29.2	Visakhapatnam	—	34.8	28.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	7	86	28	153	140	
Bengaluru	26	11	101	59	66	
Chennai	67	28	67	43	58	
Delhi	33	160	99	206	186	
Hyderabad	21	—	38	64	103	
Kolkata	35	17	28	85	73	
Lucknow	13	49	32	147	154	
Mumbai	32	63	70	182	120	
Pune	115	168	115	159	106	
Visakhapatnam	17	44	10	68	82	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Nandesari, Gujarat recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 335 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 17

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Justice Chandru invites suggestions on requirements of juvenile homes

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Justice K. Chandru, who has been appointed as the one-man committee to study the state of juvenile homes, special homes and places of safety, has asked members of the public to come forward with suggestions.

People could send information or suggestions by post to the office of the one-man committee at 147, Kutchery Road in Mylapore, or meet the committee on working days between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Recommendations

The retired judge, Justice K. Chandru, has been asked to submit recommendations on various aspects such as infrastructure, health and medical facilities, food and nutrition and aftercare.

Report in 4 months

He would submit a report in four months on the facilities constituted under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

Defamation complaint filed against Annamalai for allegations against CM

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Chennai City Public Prosecutor has filed a criminal defamation complaint against BJP Tamil Nadu president K. Annamalai before the Principal District and Sessions Court here for having made defamatory allegations against Chief Minister M.K. Stalin at a press conference on April 14.

The complaint was filed under Section 199(2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which empowers the public prosecutor to do so for offences committed against public servants.

The Public Department had issued a government order on May 6, according sanction to him under Section 199(4) of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

In his petition, the City Public Prosecutor said he went through the video clippings of the press conference and perused the address by Mr. Annamalai and was fully satisfied that the statements made by him were not only defamatory but also had a direct nexus with the discharge of official duties by the Chief Minister.

It says statements made by the BJP T.N. president at his April 14 press conference were patently false and had a direct nexus with discharge of official duties by the CM

Asserting that all allegations were patently false, the City Public Prosecutor said they had been levelled with the intention of harming the reputation of the Chief Minister, who had introduced many path-breaking welfare schemes, such as free breakfast for government schoolchildren and free travel for women in government buses.

Pursuant to the press conference, the video clippings were shared widely on the social media and some television channels conducted debates on the issue, thereby causing a considerable harm to the Chief Minister's reputation, the City Public Prosecutor complained.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

26th ANNIVERSARY

BORN 14-6-1975 LEFT 11-5-1997

K.S.Manoj Khanna
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Family, Relatives,
Friends & Staff.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Sri. VENKATESH PRASANNA,** S/o Late. Gudur Sanjeeva Residing at No.1082, Sobha Silicon Oasis, Pragathinagar, Doddanagamangala Road, BANGALORE-560100, is intending to purchase the under mentioned property hereunder and hereinafter referred to as the 'Schedule Property' from Mr. RAGHAVAN S/o Late. R. Subramanian Residing at No.26/3, Old No. 593, 5th Main, 3rd Cross, S.L. Byrappa Road, Hanumanthnagar BANGALORE-560019, who claims to be the legal heir & absolute owner of the 'Schedule Property'.

Any other person/s who have any kind of right, claims, interest, over the 'Schedule Property' are herewith called upon to file their claims before the undersigned within **Fifteen (15) days** from the date of publication of their notice 'Kannada & English' News Paper with the relevant & concerned documents. If no such claim is filed within the given time my client shall proceed & purchase the 'Schedule Property' as 'no claims subsisting'.

SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY

All that piece & parcel of Property Vacant Site No. 592, 8th Block, 6th Stage, Banashankari, Bangalore Presently Measuring **East to West 18.00 Meters & North to South 12.00 Meters, totally measuring 216.00 Square Meter,** and bounded on the:

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TENDER NOTICE

Invites bids from eligible bidders for drilling of bore wells on a rate contract basis in 162 Rural Assembly Constituencies in 26 districts of Andhra Pradesh, considering each district as one package.

For information on the eligibility criteria, tender fees, timelines and other details, interested bidders can download the tender documents from the website **https://apeprocurement.gov.in.** The tender document is available for download from 11-05-2023 and the last date for bid submission is 25-05-2023.

Date: 11-05-2023 **Sd/-Commissioner, PR&RD**

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
E-Tender Notice No. 07-CECNMS-2023-E-360335
DATED: 05.05.2023

For and on behalf of the President of India, The Chief Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008 invites e-tender for the following work(s) as per Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in our portal **www.ireps.gov.in** The tenderers/contractors intending apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the portal **www.ireps.gov.in** and only online tenders will be accepted.

NAME OF THE WORK			
Chennai Beach - Egmore Section: Proposed 4th line between Chennai Beach and Egmore Station - Earthwork in cutting, embankment from Km. 1.00 to Km. 2.20, Extension of RUB 5A, Extension of minor bridges, Reconstruction of existing compound wall from Km. 1.00 to Km. 2.20, Proposed construction of Passenger platform and provision of Passenger amenities works at MPK, MPKT and MSF Stations. (TWO PACKET SYSTEM)			
Cash Value (₹)	**Earnest Money Deposit (₹)**	**Period of Completion**	**Closing Date @ 15.00 Hrs**
292872758.76	**1614400.00**	**10 Months**	**30.05.2023**

For further details, please refer to website portal **www.ireps.gov.in** or contact Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, Construction, E.V.R. High Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I MOHAMMED Farooq Khan S/o Mohammed Khaleel, R/at No4,13th cross, BK Nagar, Yeshwanthpur Bangalore 560022 Have changed my name from Shabeer Khan to Mohammed Farooq Khan for all future purposes

I, PAVANA Pilar Acharya, W/o Chandan Navara, R/a Flat No.208, V4 Bliss Apartments, Vinayaka Layout, K.R.Puram, Bengaluru-560049 have changed my name to Pavana Acharya vide affidavit dt: 03.05.2023 sworn before Notary Srinatha.D.R, B'luru.

WE, CHANDAN Navara & Pavana Acharya, R/a Flat No.208, V4 Bliss Apartments, Vinayaka Layout, K.R.Puram, Bengaluru-560049 have changed our minor daughter's name from Kaishori to Kaishori Navara vide affidavit dt: 19.04.2023 sworn before Notary Srinatha.D.R, B'luru

I, SATYAJIT Dandagi, F/o. Saanvi, (Date of Birth: 03/11/2009), R/o. No.811, A-Block, Esteem Classic, Industrial Suburb, Rajajinagar, Yeshwanthpur,Bengaluru- 560022, have changed my minor daughter's name from Saanvi to Saanvi Dandagi, vide affidavit, dated: 08/05/2023, sworn to before Notary Public, K.H.Jagadish, Bangalore.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for the notice of the General Public that: 1) K.C. Dharman S/o Late Chinnaraju aged 77 years, 2) Dharman Shankar S/o K.C. Dhar,am aged 51 years, 3) D.Balachander S/o K.C. Dharman aged 46 years, 4) Venkatesh Dharman S/o K.C. Dharman aged 43 years. all of them residing at No. 32 1st Cross, D Costa Square, 1st Cross, Cooke Town, Bangalouru-560084. Here by intend to file an petition as required under section 270 at Indian succession Act, before The Additional City Civil Judge Mayo hall at Bangalore seeking for an probate letter of administration and succession certificate in regard to the left behind assets or property by D RAJESHWARI W/O K.C. Dharman D/O Late Periyappa Gounder & Late Amaravathi DOD: 13/03/2023 at the aforesaid address Site. 1) No 8 Ayyappa Temple Road Bangalore. 2) No.5/223A Barathinagar sipcot Ranipet TN. 682403. 3) plot No 64 S.No 31 Karai village walajah Taluk Sipe of Renipet TN. 4) Licences Renewal of D.R. Theatre Partner Ranipet. 5) Green Park Hotel (F4-3 License) Partner MBT Rote NH-4 Kairai Village Siplet Ranipet Walajah Taluk Ranipet. 6) Anybody or person if have any claim demand or objection may forward the same to the publishers address.

G.S.RAJESH URA, Advocate
No.48.Krishna Kudina, 7th Cross Muni Narayanappa Layout Doddabommasandra 1st Block, Vidyaranyapura Post, Bangalore-560097.

THANKSGIVING

THANKSGIVING
Saint Claire's Prayer

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, adored, glorified & loved today and everyday throughout the world, now and forever Amen. Ask St. Claire for three favours too impossible and say nine Hail Mary's and the above prayer for ninedays, with lighted candle. Pray whether you believe or not and publish on the ninth day. Your request will be granted no matter how impossible it is.

- Daphne Coates

BUSINESS CONNECT — A Business Initiative

HAL and IICA Sign MoU for Academic and Research Collaboration

HAL and Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) signed an MoU to synergise their professional capabilities towards capacity building, education, research and consulting. The two institutions aspire to design and deliver innovative training programs in the area of leadership development, strategy, corporate finance, governance, valuation, mergers and acquisitions etc. The programs are offered to HAL officers and participants from other organisations. The MoU envisages exchange of knowledge and resources between HAL and IICA for conducting research, training and consultancy sessions. Mr C B Ananthakrishnan, CMD, HAL said that HAL Management Academy as apex learning and development centre for officials of HAL, has in-depth understanding of the training needs and takes care of competence development requirement at various levels of the organisation. The MoU will provide a long and sustained collaboration between the two reputed institutions in the spirit of Industry-Academia interface, he added. Mr Praveen Kumar, Director General and CEO, IICA said IICA as a premier institution providing astute and credible intellectual leadership in corporate regulation, governance and running sustainable businesses looks forward to collaborate with HAL as a step to equip CPSEs enhance their competitive edge while operating in a volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous environment.

Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M), the makers of Bolero Pik-Up – the No.1 pickup brand in India – today launched its All-New Bolero MaXX Pik-Up range.

The All-New Bolero MaXX Pik-Up range promises to be a game changer with an all-new platform, while carrying over the core values and strengths that are synonymous with the Bolero DNA - robustness, toughness, reliability, low maintenance cost and high resale value. It also maintains the minimalist and timeless design language of Bolero that dominates urban roads and highways across the country. Veejay Nakra, President, Automotive Division, M&M, said, "As a company deeply committed to the 'Make in India' initiative, we take immense pride in pioneering and developing products that are not only customer centric but also reflect our commitment to contribute towards India's economic growth. With this product range we are glad to showcase Mahindra's unwavering commitment to delivering unparalleled value to customers and establishing new standards of excellence within the pick-up segment." R. Velusamy, President, Automotive Technology and Product Development, M&M, said, "The development of the highly versatile new platform that underpins the All-New Bolero MaXX Pik-Up range is the outcome of over three years of innovative work by a dedicated team of engineers at Mahindra Research Valley. All these winning features combine to make the All-New Bolero MaXX Pik-Up range deliver increased productivity and earning potential while enhancing the driving experience for our customers." Mahindra founded in 1945, the Mahindra Group is one of the largest and most admired multinational federation of companies with 260,000 employees in over 100 countries. It enjoys a leadership position in farm equipment, utility vehicles, information technology and financial services in India and is the world's largest tractor company by volume. It has a strong presence in renewable energy, agriculture, logistics, hospitality and real estate. Learn more about Mahindra on www.mahindra.com / Twitter and Facebook: @MahindraRise/ For updates subscribe to https://www.mahindra.com/news-room.

Technological Breakthrough in the Treatment of Arthritis, Neck & Back Pain

As we age, joint pain and stiffness can become a significant hindrance, reducing mobility and overall quality of life. Traditional treatments like drugs, physical therapy, and surgery may not always provide the desired results. But there is new hope for those suffering from arthritis, neck pain, and back pain: Sequentially Programmed Magnetic Field Therapy (SPMF-Therapy), a revolutionary treatment introduced by SBF Healthcare.

This groundbreaking therapy uses precisely calibrated magnetic fields to stimulate the body's natural healing process. Unlike traditional treatments, SPMF-Therapy is non-invasive, drug-free, and painless. It provides long-term relief from joint pain and improves mobility with no known side effects. This therapy is customized to each patient's unique needs, ensuring the best possible care. SBF Healthcare is the only provider of SPMF-Therapy, and their team of experienced professionals work closely with patients to ensure they receive the best possible treatment. Most patients report feeling better from the first week of treatment, and the therapy provides long-term relief from joint pain and improved mobility. One of the most significant advantages of SPMF-Therapy is its long-term effectiveness, providing lasting relief from joint pain and stiffness even many years after completing the therapy. Patients suffering from joint pain or degenerative joint disease no longer need to suffer in silence. Contact SBF Healthcare today to learn more about how SPMF-Therapy can help you regain your mobility and reduce your pain, without medication or surgery, says Leena Vasishta, director at SBF Healthcare.

With their commitment to high-quality care and experienced professionals available to answer any questions, SBF Healthcare is the right choice for those seeking a better quality of life. Take the first step on the road to recovery and contact SBF Healthcare today. SBF Healthcare can be reached on 9900548375 / 9900548372 or email them at info@sbfhealthcare.com.

ITI Ltd Commissions a 1 MW Solar Plant at its Palakkad Plant

Bengaluru/Palakkad: Multi-technology public sector major ITI Limited has commissioned a 1MW on-grid solar power plant at its ITI Palakkad Plant. The solar plant was inaugurated by Shri Rajesh Rai, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of ITI Limited in the presence of Shri. Nagraj K.V., General Manager & Unit Head, and Shri. Prince R V, Additional General Manager.

With the commissioning of the system, ITI Limited will not only be able to save big on electricity charges but also will be able to bank and sell surplus energy to the energy grid of Kerala State Electricity Board Limited (KSEBL) as bidirectional ABT Meters have been commissioned here. ITI Palakkad Plant will be saving significantly on energy bills on account of this installation. Speaking at the inauguration, Shri Rajesh Rai, CMD, ITI Limited said, "We are very happy to inaugurate the solar power plant, which is a significant step in our sustainability journey and also in our energy conservation endeavors. This initiative is in line with our commitment of reducing our carbon footprint and promoting clean energy. Mr. Rai added, "Another heartening thing to note here and for which we are very proud is that 3702 Solar PV Panels of 325Wp have been sourced from ITI Limited's Naini Plant which manufactures them. We look forward to scaling up the solar projects across our different Units. Commissioning of the Plant was a part of our continued and sincere efforts to contribute to our country's greener future." With this installation, ITI Limited will be able to reduce 750 tonnes of CO2 every year which is equivalent to the tree plantation of around 4500 numbers per year and the Plant will generate 12.5 Lacs units of energy per year. The Project aims to contribute towards environmental sustainability & marks an important milestone on the road to Company's goal of adopting new technology. Currently, ITI Limited has roof-top captive solar power plants at its Units in Naini, Raebareli, Mankapur, Lucknow, and Bangalore.

Pawar play

Maharashtra might see a fresh churn as the elections approach

Politics in Maharashtra is in an intense churn. Key actors are trying to figure out their most advantageous positioning ahead of the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections that are scheduled for next year, and in anticipation of a Supreme Court decision, on Thursday, on disqualifying Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and 15 other legislators who left with him to claim the mantle of the Shiv Sena by rebelling against Uddhav Thackeray, the son of Sena founder Bal Thackeray, in June 2022. Intra- and inter-party dynamics are at play. Sharad Pawar's dramatic announcement that he was quitting the post of president of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) had the intended effect of defusing a brewing rebellion led by his nephew Ajit Pawar, who thinks it is time to carve out his own path and come out of his uncle's shadow. The patriarch is back in the saddle and the nephew has reiterated his loyalty to the party, but the story is far from over. Mr. Pawar, 82, wants to bequeath his political legacy to his daughter, Supriya Sule, but he is also plotting the national terrain for his own potential role in the run-up to 2024. The Bihar Chief Minister, Nitish Kumar, who is championing the unity of parties that are opposed to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) across States, will be in Mumbai later this week to meet with Mr. Pawar and Mr. Thackeray. Mr. Kumar met the Odisha Chief Minister, Naveen Patnaik, on Tuesday.

The BJP, having benefited from the split in the Shiv Sena, is now plotting its next move to dominate State politics on its own. The Shinde faction's ability to sustain itself without an alliance with the BJP is doubtful, but Mr. Thackeray too has a battle at hand to keep his flock together. He wants to hold on to his Hindutva lineage and retain the upper hand in the State. The Sena finished behind the BJP in the 2019 Assembly election, inverting the hierarchy between the long-term allies. This divergence of interests between the two Hindutva parties led to their split and the formation of the tri-party Maha Vikas Aghadi, between Mr. Thackeray, and the Congress and the NCP, two professedly secular parties. The Congress projects itself as the secular national alternative to the BJP but has to engage in a balancing act that might necessitate sacrificing some of its share of seats to keep the alliance with the Sena intact. Also, the Congress has its own internal battles of egos and divergent viewpoints among its leaders.

Snap judgment

Every birth or death should not be seen as success or failure of Project Cheetah

It is almost three months since South Africa sent a batch of 12 cheetahs to India and two have already died. Taken along with the death of one of the eight cheetahs from Namibia – it had a pre-existing renal infection – and it emerges that about 15% of the animals have not made it past the first phase of India's ambitious Project Cheetah. The aim is to establish a sustainable population of about 35 cheetahs in the next decade by bringing in a few every year from Africa. Thus, it is implicit that there will be many deaths among the animals if one factors in both the natural lifespan of the cat as well as the challenges of adapting to Indian conditions. Daksha, one of the female cheetahs, died from injuries following a violent mating attempt by two males – again not entirely unexpected from what is known about the predator's behaviour.

Ordinarily, the success of wildlife breeding programmes must be measured over longer intervals. The increase in the lion population in Gir, Gujarat, as well as tiger numbers have been the result of sustained efforts over decades, that have also seen the wildcat count dip to precipitous levels. Therefore, it is yet premature to weigh in on the success of the cheetah translocation programme. However, the arrival of the cheetahs in India was far from an ordinary event. For one, it capped decades of government planning undertaken since 2009, hearings in the Supreme Court, protracted negotiations with two countries, the complex logistics of choosing and ferrying the animals, the Prime Minister's personal involvement in the enterprise, as well as the significant publicity effort by government departments to promote the endeavour as India's exemplary commitment to wildlife conservation. It is thus only natural that three deaths in three months raise consternation on whether the conservation approach adopted by experts is based on sound principles. There is criticism that Kuno National Park is inadequate to host 20 cheetahs and that some ought to be in other sanctuaries. The existing batch of animals lived far too long in captivity (in preparation for the translocation) and thus were excessively stressed and more vulnerable, the argument goes. Project Cheetah managers however underline that the investments such as in making the landscape adequately stocked with prey, consultations with experts in Namibia and South Africa with actual experience in managing cheetahs, and cultural traditions that minimise poaching and incentivise local communities to be protective of wildcats, are the right ones to help the species flourish. Given that the relocation programme has been conceived as an 'experiment', it is important that every death and every birth are not seen as markers of failure or success. However, there also ought to be clearly defined criteria with timelines that project managers must adhere to, to decide if course correction is warranted.

A ground view of the Indian Space Policy 2023

Rakesh Sood

is a former diplomat who has worked and negotiated on the interface of technology, security and strategy

On April 20 this year, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) released the Indian Space Policy 2023 that had been in the works for some years. The document has been received positively by industry. However, it needs to be followed up with suitable legislation, accompanied by clear rules and regulations. Just preceding this, this writer wrote the article, "Awaiting lift-off into the Second Space Age" (April 10, 2023), which said that India's modest entry into the First Space Age followed by its many gains should be used to help the country tap the vast potential in the Second Space Age.

Until the early 1990s, India's space industry and space economy were defined by ISRO. Private sector involvement was limited to building to ISRO designs and specifications. The Second Space Age began with the licensing of private TV channels, the explosive growth of the Internet, mobile telephony, and the emergence of the smartphone. Today, while ISRO's budget is approximately $1.6 billion, India's space economy is over $9.6 billion. Broadband, OTT and 5G promise a double-digit annual growth in satellite-based services. It is estimated that with an enabling environment, the Indian space industry could grow to $60 billion by 2030, directly creating more than two lakh jobs.

Yet, it is the enabling policy environment that has proved elusive. The first satellite communication policy was introduced in 1997, with guidelines for foreign direct investment (FDI) in the satellite industry that were further liberalised but never generated much enthusiasm. Today, more than half the transponders beaming TV signals into Indian homes are hosted on foreign satellites, resulting in an annual outflow of over half a billion dollars.

A remote sensing data policy was introduced in 2001, which was amended in 2011; in 2016, it was replaced by a National Geospatial Policy that has been further liberalised in 2022. Yet, Indian users including the security and defence agencies spend nearly a billion dollars annually to procure earth observation data and imagery from foreign sources. To streamline matters, a draft Space Activities Bill was brought out in 2017, which went through a long consultative process. It lapsed in 2019 with the outgoing Lok Sabha. The government was expected to introduce a new Bill by 2021, but it appears to have contented itself with the new policy statement.

What is different

To be fair, the Indian Space Policy 2023 is qualitatively different from previous efforts. It is a short 11-page document, which includes three pages devoted to definitions and abbreviations. The 'Vision' is to "enable, encourage and develop a flourishing commercial presence in space" that suggests an acceptance that the private sector is a critical stakeholder in the entire value chain of the space economy. It makes five key points. It defines its role in India's "socio-economic development and security, protection of environment and lives, pursuing peaceful exploration of outer space, stimulation of public awareness and scientific quest".

> Though the forward-looking document is qualitatively different from previous efforts, it needs to be followed up with suitable legislation, backed by clear rules and regulations

First, this is the only reference to 'security' in the document, making it clear that the focus is on civilian and peaceful applications. Considering that space-based intelligence, reconnaissance, surveillance, communication, positioning and navigation capabilities are increasingly seen as mission critical by the defence services, that India conducted a successful A-SAT (anti-satellite) direct ascent test in March 2019, and, in the same year, set up the Defence Space Agency and the Defence Space Research Organisation, it is reasonable to infer that a defence-oriented space security policy document will be a separate document. The United States puts out a space policy under the aegis of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Departments of Commerce and Transportation, while the Department of Defence and the Director of National Intelligence are responsible for the space security strategy.

Second, the policy lays out a strategy and then spells out the roles of the Department of Space, ISRO, the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) set up in 2020, and the NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), a public sector unit set up in 2019 under the Department of Space as the commercial arm of ISRO to replace the now defunct Antrix.

Third, it states that ISRO will "transition out of the existing practice of being present in the manufacturing of operational space systems. Hereafter, mature systems shall be transferred to industries for commercial exploitation. ISRO shall focus on R&D in advanced technology, proving newer systems and realisation of space objects for meeting national prerogatives". Another of ISRO's tasks in the new policy is to "share technologies, products, processes and best practices with NGEs (non-government entities) and/or Government companies". This implies that ISRO will now use its biggest asset, its qualified and talented manpower, to concentrate on cutting edge research and development and long-term projects such as Chandrayaan and Gaganyaan.

As ISRO's commercial arm, NSIL will become the interface for interacting with the industry, undertake commercial negotiations and provide hand-holding support to ensure smooth and efficient transfer of technologies.

Private sector role

Fourth, the NGEs (this includes the private sector) are "allowed to undertake end-to-end activities in the space sector through establishment and operation of space objects, ground-based assets and related services, such as communication, remote sensing, navigation, etc.". Satellites could be self-owned, procured or leased; communication services could be over India or outside; and remote sensing data could be disseminated in India or abroad. NGEs can design and operate launch vehicles for space transportation and establish their own infrastructure. NGEs can now make filings with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and engage in commercial recovery of asteroid resources. In short, the entire gamut of space activities is now open to the private sector. Security agencies can task NGEs for procuring tailor-made solutions to address specific requirements.

The activities of the NGEs will be in keeping with guidelines and regulation to be issued by IN-SPACe. It is expected to act as the single window agency for authorising space activities "by government entities and NGEs", in keeping with safety, security, international obligations and overall national interests.

Finally, IN-SPACe is expected to create a "stable and predictable regulatory framework" that will ensure a level playing field for the NGEs. It will act as a promoter by setting up industry clusters and as the regulator, issue guidelines on liability issues.

The gaps

The policy sets out an ambitious role for IN-SPACe but provides no time frame for the necessary steps ahead. Neither is there an indicative timeline for ISRO's transitioning out of its current practices nor is there a schedule for IN-SPACe to create the regulatory framework. The policy framework envisaged will need clear rules and regulations pertaining to FDI and licensing, government procurement to sustain the new space start-ups, liability in case of violations and an appellate framework for dispute settlement.

A regulatory body needs legislative authority. The Reserve Bank of India was set up by the 1934 RBI Act, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) by the 1992 SEBI Act, and the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) by the 1997 TRAI Act. IN-SPACe is expected to authorise space activities for all, both government and non-government entities. Currently, its position is ambiguous as it functions under the purview of the Department of Space. The Secretary (Space) is also Chairman of ISRO, the government entity to be regulated by IN-SPACe.

The Space Policy 2023 is a forward-looking document reflecting good intentions and a vision. But it is not enough. What is urgently needed is a time frame to provide the necessary legal framework to translate this vision into reality, to successfully launch India into the Second Space Age.

The fallout of Putin helping make NATO 'great again'

Sakti Prasad Srichandan

is Assistant Professor, Centre for European Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has almost doubled its borders with Russia with the addition of Finland as its 31st member in April 2023. Sweden will become a member eventually, once the ratification process gets over, which will swell NATO's territorial expanse like never before, and also make the Baltic Sea a NATO lake. The accession of Finland was the fastest on record.

For long, Nordic countries Finland and Sweden had refused to take sides, maintaining military non-alignment and being focused more on their internal socio-economic development, thus making them models of modern welfare states. Their relations with Russia were moderate at best, if not deep enough. But the Russian invasion of Ukraine changed the way they had viewed their eastern neighbour and the predictability of its leader, Vladimir Putin. For sure, Mr. Putin's actions have brought certain changes in the regional security dynamics of Europe.

Russian actions, European unity

First, engaging Russia has never been so easy for the European Union, mostly because of differences among member-states. Some European countries such as Germany and France had a soft corner for Russia, unlike some Baltic states such as Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania which have been in favour of treading a cautious path. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has not only brought back war to the European realm in the post-Second World War era, but is also a blow to the EU's image as an actor, having failed to avert the war in its neighbourhood. An interesting outcome in this adverse situation is that Russia's actions have now united European countries more than ever before.

Second, Mr. Putin might not have expected that Finland and Sweden would give up their neutrality so soon. Their membership will also mean more expenditure, militarily, and restructuring apart from a stationing of NATO forces under the new command structure. As a response, Russia will also build its military presence in the adjoining northern areas and the Kaliningrad exclave. Bordering Finland, these northern areas (starting from St. Petersburg to Murmansk) come under the Russian Core region, which is strategically and economically important for Russia. Having NATO at its Finnish door will further fuel Russian anxiety.

> Russia's actions have now united the European countries more than ever before, which will also test India's global actor role

Spotlight on the Arctic

Third, apart from these immediate border areas, another region where Nordic countries (or for that matter NATO) may face a standoff with Russia is the Arctic region, which has received little attention being too hostile an environment to merit any attention. But, due to climate change and prospects of harnessing untapped oil, gas and mineral resources, it is receiving wide attention, creating unexpected and complex challenges. Apart from the United States, Canada, and Russia, the Nordic countries such as Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Sweden and Finland are members of the Arctic Council, and have a direct stake in Arctic affairs. There have been localised confrontations between Russia and other actors here. NATO membership for the Nordic countries has brought a new geo-strategic dimension to the Arctic's future.

For Russia, cohabitation, rather than confrontation, with NATO was an option, but its military action has changed everything. By invading Ukraine, Mr. Putin wanted to stop NATO from expanding its base. On the contrary, it has triggered a NATO expansion instead, to a larger base in the Nordic, complicating the security landscape and creating more frontiers. There is more justification for NATO's existence now. Many countries now see their secure future in NATO's Article 5. Mr. Putin has in fact made NATO great again.

Implications for India

In recent years, India has had limited engagement with NATO, mostly as political dialogues. India has maintained a strategic silence on NATO's recent expansion. But it needs to closely watch for scenarios that could emerge.

First, Russia has few friends left in the current situation, but India, as one of them, is unlikely to help Moscow in maintaining the balance of power to counter NATO. China has maintained a strong stance against NATO's existence and outreach towards the Indo-Pacific. Russia may count on China for support, bringing the two countries closer, strategically and militarily, which may not be in India's interest.

Second, in recent years, the Nordic region has caught the frequency of India's strategic radar. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Copenhagen to participate in the Second India-Nordic Summit in May 2022, and underlined India's deep interest in cooperation. This region now coming under a NATO umbrella will complicate India's strategic choices.

Third, India has observer status in the Arctic Council and pursues an Arctic Policy to promote multi-level cooperation. Finland's NATO membership, with Sweden joining soon, along with China's claim as a 'Near Arctic State' and its partnership with Russia in this region, may lead to the Arctic's militarisation, thereby affecting the interests of all actors including India. India's global actor role will be tested in view of the new European security architecture led by NATO, and contested by Russia.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Safety is a distant vision

Accidents do not happen; they are caused. It is unfortunate that there has been another accident, just after the boat tragedy in Kerala, of a bus falling off a bridge in Madhya Pradesh. The common cause in both cases appears to be overloading, and in the case of the bus, overspeeding too. There is scant regard for safety norms.

A. Jainulabdeen,
Chennai

Humiliation at NEET halls

Ever since the NEET exam came into effect, there are annual reports of students being subjected to innumerable problems, which includes issues of humiliation following frisking of candidates, particularly girls. That girls have to 'change their pants and open their inner wear' is draconian and will only add to the stress of appearing for an examination. How can a student after being subject to such an invasion, regain her composure and write the test with confidence? One wonders in what way NEET is so superior when compared to other key entrance exams to make candidates feel very uncomfortable. State governments must come to the rescue of students.

Tharcius S. Fernando,
Chennai

No one can argue against the implementation of a certain code of conduct to ensure fairness in exams. But the mere existence of these rules and regulations does not grant an unlimited licence to authorities to conduct intrusive searches that are likely to cause lasting psychological trauma to students. The authorities must tackle instances of high-handedness.

A. Venkatasubramanian
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

Fall from grace

The arrest of Imran Khan, former Prime Minister of Pakistan, was not a question of if but when (Page 1, May 10). Mr. Khan had long pitted himself against his erstwhile creators, so the development is no surprise. The way Mr. Khan's political innings played out gave one the hope that democracy was at last beginning to breathe free in Pakistan. The present crisis bodes ill for the hapless people of Pakistan who are struggling to keep body and soul together amidst multiple and deep crises.

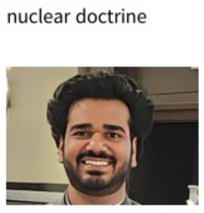
Narendra Dani,
Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Pokhran-II: A moment of profound epiphany

Amitabh Mattoo

is Professor of Disarmament Studies at JNU and Honorary Professor at the University of Melbourne. He was a member of the National Security Council's Advisory Board, which reviewed India's nuclear doctrine



Chetan Rana

is a PhD candidate at the Centre for International Politics, Organization and Disarmament, School of International Studies, JNU

Twenty-five years ago, on May 11 and 13, 1998, India carved out a new future for itself. No other event – save the fall of Dhaka in 1971 – did more for India's self-esteem and its place in the world, and no other policy decision had greater consequences for its national security. In the previous two decades, the military aspects of India's nuclear policy and programme were shrouded in a veil of ambiguity and opaqueness. There had been little reliable information available since May 18, 1974, the day India conducted its first nuclear test and termed it a "peaceful nuclear explosion."

On May 11, 1998, the veil was finally lifted. After conducting three underground tests at Pokhran, followed by two more on May 13, the Government of India was unusually candid in its statements. Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee was explicit: "Our intentions were, are, and will always be peaceful but we do not want to cover our action with a veil of needless ambiguity. India is now a nuclear weapons state..."

The consequences

The 1998 tests unleashed a fury of events and catapulted India into probably its worst confrontation with the United States. On May 13, Washington imposed sanctions against New Delhi under the Glenn Amendment; Pakistan conducted a series of nuclear tests on May 28 and 30; and China castigated India for what it saw as an "outrageous contempt for the common will of the international community." Domestically, the Congress and the Left criticised the decision to test.

But in 2023, it is evident that the nuclear tests reflected a moment of profound epiphany: an awakening of India's self-confidence and an awareness of its potential. India's status, security, and ability to influence the international system received arguably the greatest fillip then, since independence, and unarguably the strongest boost since the end of the Cold War.

Dispelling three beliefs

Moreover, the nuclearisation of India, subsequent events, and declassified sources dispelled, if not destroyed, three beliefs. First, that the decision to conduct the tests was taken by a BJP government out of tune with public opinion. While the Vajpayee government may have taken the decision to test, virtually every Prime Minister since independence is "implicated" in the development of India's nuclear weapons programme. Even Jawaharlal Nehru, whose commitment to disarmament is considered unassailable, was conscious of the potential security benefits of India's nuclear programme. He argued that by not having developed steam power and having thus missed out on the industrial revolution, India become a slave country and therefore must develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. But he went on to add, "Of course, if we are compelled as a nation to use it for other purposes, possibly no pious sentiments will stop the nation from using it that way."

It was during Lal Bahadur Shastri's premiership, after the nuclear test by China at the Lop Nor test site in 1964, that Homi Bhabha, 'the father of India's nuclear programme,' is believed to have received the green signal to pursue India's nuclear weapon option, and a small group was set up to study Subterranean Nuclear Explosions for Peaceful Purposes.

It is well known that Indira Gandhi sanctioned the first nuclear test in May 1974. Although it was termed a "peaceful nuclear explosion," the architect of the test, Raja Ramanna, revealed that it was a weapon that was tested. Less well known is that in 1988-89, Rajiv Gandhi gave the go-ahead to the Atomic Energy Commission, and the Defence Research and Development Organisation, to begin creating an Indian nuclear deterrent. By 1990, India had a fully developed nuclear weapons programme, which every subsequent Prime Minister had approved of. The Vajpayee government must, however, take credit for the historic Shakti tests.

The second was the myth that India would be isolated and its economy would collapse under the weight of sanctions and international opprobrium. However, beginning with the dialogue between Jaswant Singh and Strobe Talbott, it became clear that democratic India, with its blemish-free non-proliferation record, was too big and important to be marginalised. Instead, the U.S. took the first steps to mainstream India, treating it as an exceptional case, which culminated in the India-U.S. Civil Nuclear Agreement in 2005.

The third was the ethnocentric myth perpetuated by non-proliferation absolutists of the West that India and South Asia could not be "trusted" to manage nuclear weapons, and the logic of deterrence that had prevented a major war between the Soviet Union and the U.S. could not be applied to the sub-continent. In reality, whether it be in terms of a well-thought-out nuclear doctrine, C4I (command, control, communications, computers and intelligence) structures required to manage nuclear weapons, deterrence and the escalation ladder and to ensure flexibility of response, India has far more sophisticated measures in place than the U.S. and the Soviet Union had 25 years after acquiring nuclear weapons. Deterrence has worked well in South Asia, not just at the strategic or conventional level, but increasingly at the sub-conventional level as well.

As Ukraine, which renounced nuclear weapons, faces nuclear threats and 'blackmail' from Russia, India must celebrate the wisdom and sagacity of its leaders (political and scientific) who refused to capitulate under pressure, and helped to develop a credible nuclear deterrent against fierce odds.

> The nuclear tests of 1998 reflected an awakening of India's self-confidence and an awareness of its potential

No answers even months after atrocity

The Dalit victims at Vengaivayal village in Pudukottai deserve justice

STATE OF PLAY

S. Ganesan
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The social fabric of Tamil Nadu, widely acknowledged as a progressive State, is put to severe strain every now and then by appalling acts of atrocities against Dalits. The most recent of such cases – the dumping of human faeces in an overhead tank that supplied drinking water to Dalit families at Vengaivayal in Pudukottai district – remains unresolved even nearly four months after the State's premier investigation agency, the Crime Branch-Criminal Investigation Department (CB-CID), began its investigation. A one-man commission, appointed by the Madras High Court, has also begun a parallel inquiry.

The hamlet, which can be reached by a barely motorable road branching off from the Tiruchi-Pudukottai National Highway, remains heavily guarded as its 20-odd Dalit families live close to Eraiyur, which is dominated by intermediate caste members.

Around last Christmas, some Dalits, especially children, started taking ill. Water contamination was suspected, and youngsters who checked the tank found the faeces floating inside. The victims were left shaken and so were social activists. Incidents of discrimination against Dalits by people of dominant castes are not new, but the sheer perversion of the act in Vengaivayal was disturbing.

The police booked a case under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and the Indian Penal Code and formed multiple probe teams. But as weeks passed

by, activists and political parties, especially the Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi and the Left parties, grew restive over the delay in arresting the perpetrators of the crime.

In mid-January, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin told the Assembly that his government will act firmly against those indulging in such demeaning acts. As the issue refused to die down, the case was transferred to the CB-CID.

Pudukottai Collector Kavitha Ramu, who visited the village a day after the incident came to light, found the prevalence of the 'two-tumbler' system in which separate glasses are kept aside for Dalits and for others to serve tea. She also led a group of Dalits into Eraiyur's Sri Ayyanar temple, where they had allegedly been denied entry for years.

Curiously, none of the State Ministers, especially S. Regupathy and Siva. V. Meyyanathan, who represent the district, visited the village immediately after the incident. They did so only around Pongal, nearly 20 days later, along with the Minister for Adi Dravidar Welfare, N. Kayalvizhi Selvaraj. To promote harmony, they partook in a 'Samathuva Pongal' (a community feast) and led a public darshan at the Sri Ayyanar temple.

Activists viewed the temple entry as a diversionary tactic and felt that the government was trying to play down the incident. There were calls for demolishing the water tank. The authorities desisted, contending it was key evidence in the case. The construction of a new water tank, to replace the contaminated one, attracted criticism too. It was argued that supplying water to Dalits from an exclusive tank in itself amounted to discrimination.

In the absence of any known eyewitnesses or surveillance cameras in the hamlet, the investigators have had to largely depend on circumstantial evidence and possible scientific corroboration. Dalits of the village are aghast that despite being the victims, they too are being viewed as suspects. One of them moved the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court against the CB-CID's decision to seek blood samples from him for a DNA test. The agency had sought to conduct DNA tests, with the approval of the Special Court for exclusive trial of cases under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, on suspects from both communities in an attempt to try and match them with samples of the faecal matter found in the water tank. It has inquired over 150 persons, and more suspects could be asked to undergo the DNA tests. But this again is seen as a delaying tactic by the activists, who say the investigators ought to look for the persons who dumped the faeces rather than trying to trace the origin of the faeces.

With the Madras High Court deciding to wait for two months for the report of the one-man commission instead of ordering a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation, as sought by a public interest litigant, the inquiry by the retired High Court judge M. Sathyanarayanan has raised expectations. The victims, who are haunted by the humiliation, deserve answers.

The perilous lives of Indian workers

The rate of deaths has increased dramatically in relation to dangerous occurrences and overall injuries in the 2011-2020 period

DATA POINT

Hitesh Potdar & Sushovan Dhar

With economic growth and industrial progress, India has witnessed an unfortunate consequence: a disturbing rise in workplace accidents. Countless lives are lost or irreversibly altered due to inadequate occupational safety measures and hazardous working conditions.

According to the Directorate General Factory Advice Service and Labour Institutes (DGFASLI) report (2021), a total of 32,413 accidents were reported across various industries, resulting in 1,050 fatalities and 3,882 injuries, in 2020 **(Table 1)**. The table also shows that there has been a decrease in industrial accidents in terms of total injuries and non-fatal accidents (2011-2020).

We must bear in mind, however, that DGFASLI data appears to be under-reported. This is for three reasons. One, the data was gathered with the assistance of local inspectors under the direct supervision of the Chief Inspector of State (DGFASLI). However, there is only one inspector for every 500 factories, raising concerns regarding data gathering. According to the same data, approximately 50% of positions for Safety Inspectors, Medical Inspectors, Hygiene Inspectors, and Chemical Inspectors remain unfilled. This lack of personnel not only makes adequate data collecting difficult, but also makes proper inspections impossible. Third, the expanding informalisation of the economy has already pushed numerous MSMEs out of the formal sector, which accounts for 90% of the GDP. As a result, only 22% of all registered factories and 35% of dangerous factories are inspected. The vast majority of MSMEs, which account for 33% of India's GDP, are not subject to any safety regulations.

As the table shows, even though total injuries have decreased by roughly 70% during 2015-16, the rate of dangerous events and fatalities remained steady throughout the 10-year period. This also suggests that the rate of deaths has increased dramatically in relation to dangerous occurrences and overall injuries, with a 27% increase.

Table 2 shows that more fatalities are recorded in more industrialised States such as Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu.

Despite this reality, only 2,563 persons were convicted, barely 10 people were imprisoned for violations of the Factories Act, and only about ₹3 crore in compensation was obtained. Employers/contractors are known to continually try and avoid responsibility. For a start, they rarely report accident instances with safety inspectors or any government official for fear of legal action. They prefer to admit injured workers to private hospitals rather than government facilities, providing inadequate recompense.

India also has structural issues in occupational safety and health, which contribute to the high prevalence of workplace accidents and endanger workers' health. Laws and regulations are not often strictly enforced and do not fully cover all industries and types of employment. As a result, there are loopholes and inconsistencies, exposing workers in some industries or informal sectors to hazardous working conditions.

Another aspect that receives insufficient attention is health. The majority of workers do not have adequate health coverage (**Table 3).** It is sad that workers' health and safety are among the first to go in order to save money. Unfortunately, this is unlikely to help India in developing a sustainable economy, let alone an equitable society. Workers' safety, decent pay and social security must be prioritised in any industrial planning.

Hitesh Potdar and Sushovan Dhar are with India Labourline

Counting accidents

The data for the tables are sourced from the Directorate General Factory Advice Service and Labour Institutes (DGFASLI) report (2021) and the National Family Health Survey-5

Table 1: Timeline of accidents

Year	Dangerous Occurrences	Fatal Injuries	Non-fatal injuries	Total Injuries
2011	649	1,394	28,805	30,199
2012	1,310	1,317	28,700	30,017
2013	1,343	1,312	26,852	28,164
2014	1,534	1,266	25,500	26,766
2015	1,091	1,107	20,257	21,364
2016	700	1,189	5,367	6,556
2017	1,382	1,084	4,866	5,950
2018	1,124	1,154	4,528	5,682
2019	1,371	1,127	3,927	5,054
2020	634	1,050	2,832	3,882

Table 3
Coverage of health insurance across various wealth quintiles (figures in %)

Quintile	ESI covered	Central govt. schemes	State health insurance schemes
Lowest	0.7	4.9	32
Second	1	6.1	48.2
Middle	2	7.7	56.4
Fourth	4.3	8.7	53.7
Highest	10.6	12.4	37.9

Quintile	Other insurance through employer	Medical reimbursement from employer	Privately purchased insurance
Lowest	0.1	0	0.2
Second	0.2	0.1	0.5
Middle	0.4	0.2	1.1
Fourth	1.1	0.6	2.5
Highest	3.7	2.9	12.8

Table 2: Fatal injuries

State/UT	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Andhra	**68**	**68**	**68**	**61**	**72**	**66**
Assam	8	12	10	12	4	10
Bihar	10	11	17	21	8	12
Chhattisgarh	**74**	**81**	**72**	**91**	**86**	**84**
DD & DNH	12	15	16	25	9	5
Delhi	6	10	37	5	6	9
Goa	8	3	5	3	3	6
Gujarat	**206**	**272**	**229**	**263**	**216**	**212**
Haryana	41	67	49	45	26	35
Himachal	4	9	14	9	9	8
Jharkhand	29	21	17	18	21	16
Karnataka	72	54	49	85	69	45
Kerala	20	18	16	22	29	14
M.P.	44	30	30	22	44	26
Maharashtra	**145**	**150**	**137**	**142**	**145**	**154**
Odisha	55	46	52	42	32	47
Punjab	21	23	20	16	64	28
Rajasthan	33	15	31	32	32	23
Tamil Nadu	**87**	**104**	**71**	**84**	**122**	**114**
Telangana	57	63	70	43	56	51
Uttar Pradesh	39	46	58	48	46	66
Uttarakhand	21	10	9	15	20	15
West Bengal	38	54	#	39	#	#
Total	**1107**	**1189**	**1084**	**1154**	**1127**	**1050**

 # No data available for these years | sushovan.dhar@indialabourline.org, hitesh.potdar@indialabourline.org

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 11, 1973

Heat wave abating: 117 dead so far

New Delhi, May 10: A drop in the maximum temperature in most parts of the country to-day brought some relief from the current hot spell which has so far claimed 117 lives in different States. Fifteen children died of sunstroke in Nagpur to-day bringing the toll in the Nagpur region to 54. The heat spell claimed five more lives in the Bhadrachalam sub-division of Andhra Pradesh yesterday. This brought the total deaths in the sub-division during the current heat spell to nine. An old woman died of sunstroke at Orai in Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday, bringing the death toll in the State to 14. Unofficial reports said the heat wave had taken a toll of at least 12 persons in Bihar during the past fortnight, bringing the tally to 44. Many schools in Hazaribagh have been closed a week in advance. But there was a general fall in temperature in Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Western Uttar Pradesh and the heat wave was abating in Orissa, coastal areas and eastern Rajasthan. A dust storm in Chandigarh brought down the temperature in the Union Territory and the surrounding areas. Heat also brought good tidings to the Bhakra complex. With snow melting, the inflow at Gobindsagar reservoir had reached 45,000 cusecs during the first ten days of the month. This was six times the normal rate.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 11, 1923

Punjab's heavy toll

Simla, May 10: Plague returns for the week ending 28th April show that the epidemic is still raging in all provinces being the highest in Punjab and lowest in Bengal. During the week seizures stood at 6241 all over India of whom 4784 died. Punjab's loss was about half of the whole of India, being 2460 deaths against 3059 seizures. The position in other provinces during the week end in the case of seizures and deaths respectively was: – Delhi Province 264 and 173; Bombay 479 and 339; Madras 354 and 149; Bihar and Orissa 216 and 185, Central Provinces 434 and 239; Burma 87 and 82; Northwest Frontier Provinces 73 and 37; Mysore 65 and 44; Kashmir (Jammu) 146 and 82. In the Bengal Presidency only Calcutta records ten deaths. The principal towns affected are Delhi, Bombay, Rangoon, Lahore, Peshawar, Karachi and Bangalore.

From Page One

Karnataka records 72.68% turnout in polls

Exercising franchise: An elderly woman being carried to the polling station at Anchatgeri in Dharwad. KIRAN BAKALE

The BJP in this election is trying to undo the three-decade history of a ruling party not returning to power while the Congress is trying to harness the issue of price rise and alleged corruption of the incumbent government to return to power after five years, even as the Janata Dal(S) is fighting to retain its influence in State politics.

Voting was largely peaceful barring sporadic incidents of clashes between party workers.

With the election contested tightly, especially after high-pitch poll campaigns by the national leaders of both the BJP and the Congress, the tension on the battleground was visible but contained, as skirmishes were reported between party workers in several districts, including Kolar, Ballari, Vijayapura and Gadag. At Masabinal village in Basavana Bagewadi in Vijayapura district, the polling scene turned violent as villagers smashed the spare electronic voting machines (EVM) thinking that the officials were taking them away by stopping the poll process.

Though instances of polling being held up due to snags in the EVMs were reported, Election Commission officials said that they were fewer in number due to the deployment of the M-3 EVMs.

Elders came to booths

Despite the Election Commission's effort to provide vote from home for those above 80, it seemed to have not created awareness in the rural areas with many complaining that they did not know of the facility, but struggled to reach the polling booth to cast their vote.

EPFO offices told to fix dues of subscribers

The EPFO had recently extended the date for submitting joint options with employers for availing higher pension till June 26.

"In case of acceptance of joint option of members who are still in service and officer in-charge has passed the requisite speaking order, the present employer shall continue to pay pension contribution on higher wages in future also, including the increased 1.16% on wages above ₹15,000 per month," the circular said.

Calculation post verification

The dues will be calculated by the regional offices after the verification of wage details submitted by the employers. "In case of exempted establishments, the wage details for the entire period and the matching contribution should be available with the exempted establishments and consistent with the records of the Trust," the circular added. For both exempted and un-exempted establishments, the interest shall not be calculated for inoperative accounts.

Joe Biden to host Modi in Washington DC on June 22

The leaders will have the opportunity to review strong bilateral cooperation in various areas of mutual interest, including technology, clean energy, and defence, says an MEA statement

Sriram Lakshman

The White House has announced the state visit by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Washington DC next month. The visit has been in the works for months, with Indian officials working out the logistics for Mr. Modi's first state visit during the Biden administration.

"President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden will host Prime Minister Narendra Modi of the Republic of India for an Official State Visit to the United States, which will include a state dinner, on June 22, 2023," the announcement said, adding that the visit will "affirm the deep and close partnership" between the two countries and their people to people ties. The government confirmed the visit, saying it would underscore the "growing importance" of the bilateral relationship.

Close ties: Prime Minister Narendra Modi (left) with U.S. President Joe Biden during the G-20 Summit in Indonesia. FILE PHOTO

"The leaders will have the opportunity to review strong bilateral cooperation in various areas of mutual interest, including technology, trade, industry, education, research, clean energy, defence, security, healthcare, and deepening people-to-people connections," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement.

"The visit will strengthen our two countries' shared commitment to a free, open, prosperous, and secure Indo-Pacific and our shared resolve to elevate our strategic technology partnership," the White House said.

The Indian readout went into more detail, adding that the two leaders would reflect on "their shared vision for a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific and discuss opportunities to expand and consolidate the Quad engagement".

The MEA also said the visit would allow Mr. Modi and Mr. Biden to explore ways in which India and the U.S. could strengthen their cooperation at the G-20 [of which India currently holds the rotating presidency] and other multilateral and plurilateral forums.

Mr. Modi and Mr. Biden are expected to discuss an expansion in educational exchanges, climate change, workforce development and health security, according to the White House.

"This historic visit offers a valuable opportunity for India and the U.S. to further deepen a comprehensive and forward-looking global strategic partnership," the MEA said.

The Hindu had reported that Mr. Modi and Mr. Biden are also expected to interact multiple times later in May – at the G7 meetings in Hiroshima, in Papua New Guinea, and at the Quad Summit in Sydney.

(With inputs from Kallol Bhattacherjee)

PM to unveil plan for museum in Central Secretariat next week

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

The plan will be made public using a virtual walkthrough at the Museum Expo on May 18

Plans for the '*Yuge Yugeen Bharat* National Museum' at the iconic North and South Blocks here will be unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi next week.

The plan will be made public using a virtual walkthrough at the International Museum Expo on May 18. North and South Blocks of the Central Secretariat complex were built during the 1930s.

While South Block houses the Prime Minister's Office, the External Affairs Ministry and the Defence Ministry, North Block is home to the Ministries of Finance and Home.

The government had announced plans to convert North and South Blocks into museums in 2021.

"All the galleries of the [current] National Museum would be shifted to the new site and the current building would become part of the *Kartavaya Path*," Minister of State for Culture Meenakshi Lekhi said on Wednesday.

The foundation stone of the current National Museum was laid by the first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, in 1955.

The new Museum at North and South Blocks will depict the story of India's rich civilisational culture of 5,000-plus years showcasing the various sections or *khands* tracing the continuous journey of Indian civilisation, the Union Culture Ministry said. The Museum will cover an area of 1.17 lakh sq. m with 950 rooms spread over a basement and ground and two more floors.

Apart from unveiling the blueprint, the three-day International Museum Expo would be a first-of-its-kind show which aims to facilitate a holistic conversation and showcase the diverse cultural heritage exhibited by various museums across the country.

RPF cracks down on fake ticket sales, arrests middlemen

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

Attempts to misuse reservation system come to the RPF's notice during periods of rush such as festivals and holidays

To curb illegal selling of railway tickets, the Railway Police Force (RPF) has launched a crackdown and arrested touts and retailers of illegal software.

During the drive, RPF personnel conducted regular inspections at railway stations, reservation counters and online content to detect and apprehend unauthorised ticket booking agents.

Up to 42 illegal software pieces were detected with the arrest of 955 touts, developers, super sellers, sellers and retailers.

Touting activities occur because of the gap between demand and supply of reserved accommodations.

During rush periods such as festivals, summer vacations, holidays, or when demand exceeds availability, instances of attempt to misuse the reservation system come to the RPF's notice.

The RPF conducts regular checks in Passenger Reservation Systems (PRS), booking offices, platforms, and trains to prevent unauthorised ticketing using scripting software.

Checks and balances

The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has deployed various checks and balances to prevent unscrupulous activities.

For instance, only one IRCTC user ID can be created using a given mobile number and email ID.

Another example is setting a limit on booking six railway tickets by an individual user in a month.

This limit has been revised to 12 a a month for those users who have linked their user ID with their Aadhaar and ensured that at least one of the passengers on the reservation chart is verifiable through Aadhaar.

I would have been equally angry: Alex Ellis on India's London mission attack

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

"I would have been equally angry," said U.K. High Commissioner Alex Ellis, speaking about the violence at the Indian High Commission in March this year by pro-Khalistan groups who took down the Tricolour and caused a rift in ties between India and the United Kingdom.

In his first public remarks since the incident, Mr. Ellis – who was addressing a think-tank event about the U.K.'s Strategic "Integrated Review Refresh" – said that relations between India and the U.K. were "absolutely central" to the U.K.'s plans for the Indo-Pacific and its future foreign policy. The two countries are "capable of dealing with disagreements", as over the issue of extremism, he added.

'Eyes on the prize'

"I think there is no disagreement between [India and the U.K.] that what happened at the Indian High Commission was absolutely not okay," Mr. Ellis said, speaking at the Ananta Centre in Delhi, referring to the protests on March 19, that led to an uproar in India, and a formal demarche from the Ministry of External Affairs.

Alex Ellis

He added that tackling disinformation, radicalisation at religious institutions and other measures were part of the U.K. government's "toolkit" in dealing with the problem. The High Commissioner also said that it was necessary to keep "eyes on the prize" of closer India-U.K. strategic ties, and to complete the bilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA) as soon as possible.

Mr. Ellis's comments on extremism come weeks after the British Foreign Office published the results of an independent commission's report – known as the Bloom report – on dealing with faith and religious extremism.

Mr. Ellis said that the U.K.'s integrated review had noted that China was an "epoch-defining challenge", and that it was different from the U.K. and its other partners. He also made a particular mention of China's security crackdown in Hong Kong, and said that it was "totally unacceptable and has consequences in the U.K".

The High Commissioner's remarks led to a sharp retort from a Chinese diplomat in the audience who protested the discussion of China at a forum for India-U.K. ties. However, Mr. Ellis said that there were "consequences" to China's "great importance" in the world, and it was not out of the ordinary to discuss Beijing's behaviour anywhere in the world today.

Santiniketan may be added to World Heritage List

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Santiniketan, associated with Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore, has been recommended for inclusion on UNESCO's World Heritage List.

The quaint town in West Bengal's Birbhum district is also home to the Visva-Bharati University built by Tagore. The recommendation was made by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), which is the advisory body to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, based on a file moved by the Centre.

The nomination would be formally announced at the World Heritage Committee meeting to be held at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in September 2023, Union Minister for Culture G. Kishen Reddy said.

Santiniketan, if selected, would be the second cultural symbol from West Bengal, to make it to the UNESCO list. In 2021, UNESCO had included '*Durga Puja* in Kolkata' on its list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Railways to proceed with closure of printing presses, despite opposition

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

Despite stiff resistance from the trade unions, the Ministry of Railways has decided to go ahead with its decision to close down its five printing presses across the network and outsource the printing of tickets until complete digitisation of the ticketing system is achieved.

The 2019 decision to close down the printing presses at Royapuram and Chennai (Southern Railway); Secunderabad (South Central Railway); Byculla and Mumbai (Central Railway); Howrah (Eastern Railway); and Shakurbasti, Delhi (Northern Railway) was deferred after the All India Railwaymen Federation (AIRF), Southern Railway Mazdoor Union (SRMU) and other trade unions opposed the move.

Remnants of history: One of the oldest printing machines at the Railway Printing Press in Chennai. FILE PHOTO

In a communication to the General Managers of all Zonal Railways, the Railway Board said a decision had now been taken to wind up the printing presses. The staff would be redeployed suitably and machinery, plants, and the like disposed of by the zone concerned in a manner to derive maximum value for money.

Real estate

Though it was stated that the land released following the closure of the printing presses should be "gainfully utilised", it was not clear whether the Railways would develop the immoveable assets for its own commercial purposes or sell them in open market.

AIRF president N. Kannaiah said that the Indian Railways' employees were opposing the closure of the printing presses since their contribution to the day-to-day functioning of the Railways administration and train operations was significant over the decades.

"In the event of the closure of the printing press at Royapuram, we would demand developing the land as a new terminal instead of selling the prime property to private parties," Mr. Kannaiah said.

DRDO official held for spying has links to RSS: Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A DRDO scientist who was arrested by the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad for passing on confidential information to a Pakistani intelligence operative was associated with the RSS, the Congress alleged on Wednesday.

Addressing a press conference, Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera said the arrest of Pradeep Kurulkar exposed the "anti-national face" of the RSS.

He further said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi should answer what was the relationship between Mr. Kurulkar and the RSS as the matter pertained to national security.

Cybercrime racket in Nuh duped 28,000 people of ₹100 crore: Haryana Police

The Hindu Bureau
GURUGRAM

The cybercrime racket busted in Nuh a fortnight ago had duped around 28,000 people of ₹100 crore across the country, the Haryana Police said on Wednesday.

The accused had lured people through online advertisements with sales on different products and work-from-home jobs, and extorted money through honey-trap.

Sixty-six people were arrested during searches in 14 villages of Nuh in the early hours of April 28 in this connection and 250 are still at large. Of those on the run, 20 are from Rajasthan, 19 from Uttar Pradesh and 211 from Haryana. The accused are aged between 18 and 35 and had mostly studied only up to high school.

Giving details of the racket's *modus operandi* on completion of the police remand of the accused, Nuh Superintendent of Police Varun Singla, in a press conference, said the accused would lure people with attractive offers of sales on motorbikes, cars and mobile phones and seek money on the pretext of courier and transportation charges, but the goods were never delivered.

In some cases, the accused honey-trapped people through profiles on social media platforms, recorded their videos and extorted large sums of money.

The bank accounts used to transfer money were mostly activated online seeking details such as Aadhaar, PAN, and mobile number from unsuspecting people.

Modi says 'ugly form' of politics visible in Rajasthan

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

Taking a swipe at infighting in the ruling Congress in Rajasthan following a public spat between Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his former deputy Sachin Pilot, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said an "ugly form" of politics was visible in the State. "This is a State where the CM does not have faith in his MLAs and they also don't trust him," Mr. Modi said.

Addressing a BJP rally in Sirohi, Mr. Modi said the Congress leaders, fighting a political battle for power, were busy in the game of "looting and saving the chair". He said that while everyone was competing to insult each other, there was no one to take care of public welfare and the State's development.

Mr. Pilot recently said Mr. Gehlot's "real leader" was BJP's Vasundhara Raje rather than his own party's Sonia Gandhi.

Byelections held to one Lok Sabha, four Assembly seats

Sohiong in Meghalaya clocks 90% turnout, contrasting with less than 40% in Chhanbey of Uttar Pradesh; AAP MLA Dalbir Singh Tong held for violating model code of conduct in Jalandhar

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

All for franchise: An elderly voter shows her inked finger after casting her vote in Jalandhar, on Wednesday. PTI

Bypolls were held to one Lok Sabha seat in Punjab and four Assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh, Meghalaya and Odisha on Wednesday.

While the Sohiong Assembly constituency in Meghalaya registered an impressive polling percentage of more than 90%, turnout in the Suar and Chhanbey Assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh was far lower, at just 41.78% and 39.51%, respectively. In the Jharsuguda Assembly constituency in Odisha, 68.12% of the voters cast their ballots, while the turnout for the Jalandhar Lok Sabha seat was 50.27%.

The byelection to the Jalandhar Lok Sabha seat was necessitated by the death of Congress MP Santokh Singh Chaudhary in January this year.

A total of 19 candidates contested the seat. While the Aam Aadmi Party fielded former MLA and ex-Congressman Sushil Rinku, the Congress candidate was Santokh Chaudhary's widow, Karamjit Kaur. The BJP candidate was Inder Iqbal Singh Atwal, while the Shiromani Akali Dal fielded Sukhwinder Kumar Sukhi.

Though polling was by-and-large peaceful, Dalbir Singh Tong, the AAP MLA from the Baba Bakala constituency in Amritsar, was arrested for allegedly violating the model code of conduct. He was later released on bail.

In Jharsuguda of Odisha, over 1.5 lakh voters exercised their franchise. The byelection took place after the seat fell vacant following the murder of MLA and Health Minister Naba Kisore Das in January.

While the Biju Janata Dal fielded Deepali Das, daughter of the murdered Minister, the BJP went for a youth face in Tankadhar Tripathy, and the Congress fielded Tarun Pandey, the son of late MLA Biren Pandey.

All three candidates from the three mainstream parties are first-timers in electoral politics.

Both the bypolls in U.P. are a direct contest between the Apna Dal (Sonelal), which is an ally of the ruling BJP, and the Samajwadi Party, with both sides fielding relatively new candidates.

In Sohiong of Meghalaya, the bypoll was necessitated as the United Democratic Party (UDP) candidate H.D.R. Lyngdoh passed away before the February 27 Assembly election.

The counting of votes for all the bypolls will take place on May 13, on the same day as thecounting for the Karnataka Assembly election.

Shinde govt.'s fate to be decided today as SC set to rule on Sena vs Sena battle

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Eknath Shinde

The Supreme Court is set to pronounce its verdict on Thursday on a batch of petitions filed by rival Shiv Sena groups following the political turmoil in Maharashtra last year. The court order is expected to decide the fate of the Eknath Shinde government in the State.

The petitions were filed after Mr. Shinde's rebellion, which led to the fall of the tripartite Maha Vikas Aghadi government led by Uddhav Thackeray, and formation of a new government with the support of the BJP, under Mr. Shinde.

A five-judge Constitution Bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud and Justices M.R. Shah, Krishna Murari, P.S. Narasimha and Hima Kohli had reserved the judgment on March 16. The first petition was filed by Mr. Shinde in June last year after notices were issued by the then Deputy Speaker of the Assembly against rebel MLAs under the 10th Schedule (disqualification on the ground of defection) of the Constitution.

Thereafter, petitions were filed by the Thackeray group challenging the then Maharashtra Governor's decision to call for a trust vote and the swearing-in of Mr. Shinde as the Chief Minister. The election of the new Speaker, Rahul Narwekar, was also challenged.

In August 2022, a three-judge Bench led by then CJI N.V. Ramana referred all these cases to a five-judge Constitution Bench. One of the petitions before the top court was to decide on which faction of Sena would get its name and the bow and arrow symbol. On February 17, the Election Commission decided to allot the party name and symbol to the group led by Mr. Shinde.

Sena-BJP alliance hopeful that SC ruling won't topple its govt.

Abhinay Deshpande
MUMBAI

The political landscape in Maharashtra is on the verge of a significant upheaval over the eagerly anticipated Supreme Court ruling on the disqualification plea of 16 MLAs of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena.

As the leaders of the Shinde faction display signs of nervous anticipation, their ally Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) remains hopeful that the ruling will not have much impact on the government.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, a senior BJP leader said that two plausible outcomes are widely speculated with one being the court disqualifying the legislators in question, including Mr. Shinde, which would necessitate his immediate resignation. The second possible scenario is the Supreme Court referring the matter back to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly to take appropriate action, he said.

"If the matter is referred to the Speaker, it is highly likely that the composition of the government and the Chief Minister's position would remain unchanged. In case of disqualification, a new government will be formed with a new Chief Minister," he said.

A Shiv Sena leader from the Shinde camp said, "Even if 16 MLAs are disqualified, we will have the required number to retain power."

Meanwhile, Shiv Sena (UBT) MLC Anil Parab said a favourable ruling would not only validate their position but also provide a morale boost to not just *Shiv Sainiks* but also to supporters of the MVA alliance. The MVA leaders believe that the matter also carries the potential to influence the trajectory of their alliance in the 2024 Lok Sabha and Assembly elections.

'Rajasthan has opposed legal status for same-sex union; 6 other States sought debates'

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Wednesday told the Supreme Court that seven States have either opposed legal recognition of same-sex marriage or said the issue required "intense and expansive debates".

Appearing before a Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for the Centre, said Rajasthan had opposed the idea of giving legal status to same-sex marriage while Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Manipur and Sikkim have said they cannot respond without the benefit of threadbare discussions on it across a large platform.

The Centre had written to all the States and Union Territories for their opinion on the matter and these seven had replied.

The idea of mother cannot be fluid, Ministry tells SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Gender may be fluid, but for a child, the "idea of mother cannot be", a host of government bodies led by the Ministry of Women and Child Development told the Supreme Court on Wednesday.

"...Benefit under many laws is limited to the definite definition of mother, which is not as certain in the relationship of same-sex or gender-neutral or gender-fluid couples," Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati said. Ms. Bhati also argued that all categories of LGBTQIA++ persons cannot be put in a single compartment with a single remedy for all purposes.

Even granting same-sex relationships a status "less than marriage" would turn out wrong, Mr. Mehta said.

The Bench has in the previous hearings in the case talked about the reality of stable relationships among same-sex couples. It had mentioned the possibility of "civil unions".

The judges had at one point mulled that, if not marriage, a legal framework could be devised by which same-sex couples could be recognised as "partners" in a "contract". Finally, the court had pointedly said that long cohabitation would presume marriage.

Nitish meets Hemant Soren for unity talks

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has warned that "attempts are being made to change history" and that this is a reason why a united Opposition front must be crafted to take on the BJP in next year's Lok Sabha election.

A day after meeting Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Mr. Kumar called on Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren in Ranchi on Wednesday. Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Prasad Yadav and Janata Dal(U) national president Rajiv Ranjan were also present.

Mr. Soren said more such meetings would be held, and the opinions of all political parties would be welcomed before reaching on a consensus on Opposition unity.

OFFICE OF THE A.C.E (P)-4
DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI
ROOM NO.31, B-BUILDING, JHANDEWALAN, NEW DELHI-110005.
Mob:- 9650094325 E-mail Id:- djbwaterbody@gmail.com

"STOP CORONA : Wear Face Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"

PRESS NIT No. 02/WB-I/2023-24

S. No	Name of work	Estimated Contract Value (ECV)/ Amount put to tender	Earnest Money (EMD)	Tender Fee	Date of Release of tender in E-Procurement Solution & Tender ID No.	Last Date/Time of receipt of tender E-Procurement Solution
1	Creation of Lake at Okhla STP under A.C.E. (P) - 4	Rs. 10,14,37,302/-	Rs. 20,15,000/-	1500/-	03.05.2023 Tender Id 2023_DJB_240546_1	30.05.2023 At 3:00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at **https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in**.

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 25 (2023-24) **EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (WB)-I**

भारत सरकार - अंतरिक्ष विभाग / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA - DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण समूह, एसडीएससी-शार / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC-SHAR
श्रीहरिकोटा, आं.प्र. / SRIHARIKOTA - 524124

संक्षिप्त ई–निविदा सूचना / Brief E-TENDER NOTICE शुद्धिपत्र / CORRIGENDUM-II दिनांक/ Date. 08.05.2023

ई–निविदा सूचना सं./e-Tender Notice No.CMG/C/P228724 तिथि/ Date. 27.03.2023

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से **"सतीश धवन अंतरिक्ष केंद्र शार के आरएसएफ में सुरक्षा वाच टावर के निर्माण के लिए सिविल, जन स्वास्थ्य तथा सड़क कार्य"** । (₹ 28 लाख); के लिए ई–निविदा के माध्यम से मद दर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा दस्तावेज **22.05.2023** को **14:30** बजे तक डाउनलोड किए जा सकते हैं। विस्तृत सूचना हेतु इच्छुक निविदाकार हमारी वेबसाइट **www.isro.gov.in** या **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** पर जाएं।

On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for **"Construction of Security Watch Tower at RSF, SDSC SHAR (Civil, PH and Road Works)."** (₹ 28 Lakhs); Tender documents can be downloaded up to **22.05.2023, 14:30 hrs**. Interested tenderers may visit **www.isro.gov.in** or **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** for details.

हस्ताक्षरित- समूह प्रधान, सीएमजी / एसडीएससी शार / Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG / SDSC SHAR

भारत सरकार - अंतरिक्ष विभाग / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA - DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण समूह, एसडीएससी-शार / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC-SHAR
श्रीहरिकोटा, आं.प्र. / SRIHARIKOTA - 524124

संक्षिप्त ई–निविदा सूचना / Brief E-TENDER NOTICE

सं.शार:सीएमजी सिविल:अनुरक्षण:ई–जन निविदा / No:SHAR:CMGCIVIL:MAINT:E-PT-03/23-24 तिथि/Date. 10.05.2023

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से **"कीपाकम स्थित प्रशासनिक भवन में लिफ्ट के लिए सिविल कार्य"** (टी/सी-23-011, अनुमानित लागत ₹ 20.29 लाख), **"कीपाकम स्थित प्रशासनिक भवन की खिड़कियों में संशोधन"** (टी/सी-23-012, अनुमानित लागत ₹ 19.50 लाख), **"चेन्नै स्थित पल्लावरम में सुरक्षा ट्रैक का निर्माण"** (टी/सी-23-013, अनुमानित लागत ₹ 5.90 लाख), **"पीएसओएम–एक्सएल में बाड़ लगाने का कार्य तथा एफएलपी में जल रिसाव को रोकना"** (टी/सी-23-014, अनुमानित लागत ₹ 16.36 लाख) हेतु मद दर ई–निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा दस्तावेजों को **25.05.2023** को **14:30** बजे तक डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। इच्छुक निविदाकार विस्तृत सूचना के लिए हमारी वेबसाइट **www.isro.gov.in** या **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** देखें।

On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for **"Civil work for lift @ Admin bldg, Keepakam"** (T/C-23-011, Est. cost ₹ 20.29 Lakhs); **"Modification of windows @ Admin bldg, Keepakam"** (T/C-23-012, Est. cost ₹ 19.50 Lakhs); **"Security track @ Pallavaram, Chennai"** (T/C-23-013, Est .cost ₹ 5.90 Lakhs); **"Fencing works @ PSOM-XL & Arresting water leakage @ FLP"** (T/C-23-014, Est. cost ₹ 16.36 Lakhs). Tender documents can be downloaded up to **25.05.2023, 14:30** hrs. Interested tenderers may visit **www.isro.gov.in** or **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** for details.

हस्ताक्षरित- समूह प्रधान, सीएमजी / एसडीएससी शार / Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG / SDSC SHAR

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : SE/PHC/KKD/17/2023-24, **Jal Jeevan Mission -** CWSS to Moopainad, Meppadi and Vythiri Panchayaths in Wayanad District Construction of 11 LL GLSR, Laying Distribution system and providing FHTC in Moopainad Panchayath, **EMD :** Rs. Rs.500000, **Tender fee :** Rs. 16540+(2978) GST, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 02-06-2023 04:00:pm, **Phone :** 0495-2371046, **Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**

Superintending Engineer
KWA-JB-GL-6-237-2023-24 PH Circle, Kozhikode

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : KWA/HO/SP/01/2023-24, Supply and trial running of portable acoustic leak detectors (Non-Chinese make) with equipment and all accessories including 3 years on-site warranty. **EMD :** Rs. 124200, **Tender fee :** Rs. 22066, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 27-05-2023 03:00:pm, **Phone :** 8547638199, **Website :** www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in

Chief Engineer (HRD&GI.)
KWA-JB-GL-6-249-2023-24 Jalabhavan, Thiruvananthapuram

Government of Rajasthan
Office of the District Collector and District Magistrate
District Jodhpur

F. No. 973 **Dated : 09-05-2023**

Invited applications under
Young Interns Program (YIP)-2023 for District Jodhpur

The Government of Rajasthan is seeking applications from the willing and talented youth for Young Interns Program (YIP)-2023. These interns will be provided opportunity to work with the district administration in the implementation of projects of Government of Rajasthan. The applications will be accepted through hard copy and also through the E-Mail: dsojod.des@rajasthan.gov.in. The applications will be opened from 10-05-2023 and shall close on 17-05-2023 at 11:59 PM.

The application form, Eligibility criteria, procedure for selection, stipend and other details are available at the district website **www.jodhpur.rajasthan.gov.in** and also on the website **www.statistics.rajasthan.gov.in** and **www.yip.rajasthan.gov.in.** This is purely and internship program and does not provide any type of employment or guarantee for any employment in future.

(Himanshu Gupta)
District Collector and
District Magistrate
Jodhpur
DIPR/C/6737

The Rajasthan Small Industries Corporation Ltd.
(A Government of Rajasthan Undertaking) Udyog Bhawan, Tilak Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur-302 005 Phone: 0141-2227079 Fax: 0141-2227257
Website: http://industries.rajasthan.gov.in/rajsico E-mail: rajsico@rajasthan.gov.in
CIN- U91110RJ1961SGC001118

ई-निविदा सूचना 6/2023-24
UBN No. : RSI2324SLOB00006

राजस्थली दिल्ली, राजस्थली कोलकाता में 24 माह तथा राजस्थली, ओबेरॉय होटल मुम्बई में 36 माह के लिए गुणवत्ता बिक्री लक्ष्य काउण्टर क्वालिटी सेल्स टारगेट काउण्टर) के आधार पर निम्न राजस्थानी हस्तषिल्प उत्पादों की बिक्री हेतु इच्छुक निविदादाताओं से ई–निविदाऐं आमंत्रित की जाती है:–

(A)

राजस्थली दिल्ली – •राजस्थानी मूल्यवान व अर्द्धमूल्यवान रत्न व रत्न जड़ित आभूषण • राजस्थानी लाख की चूडियॉ व हस्त निर्मित लाख उत्पाद • राजस्थानी ब्लू पोटरी, टैराकोटा, पेपरमैसी इत्यादि•राजस्थानी रजाईयॉ •राजस्थानी जरी, गोटा एंव प्योर जडाउ ब्राईडल साडी •राजस्थानी मोजडी एंव चमडे के हस्तनिर्मित उत्पाद • राजस्थानी फोल्डर्स,डोल एंव हैंगिंग्स •पैक्ड फूड– राजस्थानी,खाने के आईटम्स जैसे पापड, भुजिया, अचार, ड्राई वैजीटेबल, एंव मेंहदी • राजस्थानी गलीचा, दरी व दरी उत्पाद • राजस्थानी मिरर वर्क एवं एम्ब्राइटरी हस्तशिल्प उत्पाद।

राजस्थली कोलकाता–•राजस्थानी ब्रास व मैटल आईटम्स •राजस्थानी प्लेन सिल्वर व सिल्वर मीनाकारी ज्वैलरी • राजस्थानी रजाईयॉ• राजस्थानी दरी व दरी उत्पाद • राजस्थानी हैण्डब्लोक प्रिन्टेड, टाई एण्ड डाई के सिले–सिलाऐ वस्त्र • सभी प्रकार की राजस्थानी साडीयॉ।

(B)

राजस्थली मुम्बई – गुणवत्ता बिक्री लक्ष्य काउण्टर (क्वालिटी सेल्स टारगेट काउण्टर) (समस्त हस्त निर्मित राजस्थानी उत्पाद)

प्री–बिड मीटिंग की तिथि 15.5.23 को मध्यान्ह 12.00 बजे राजसिको के बोर्ड रूम में आयोजित की जावेगी। आवेदन की अन्तिम तिथि 25.5.23 को 1.00 बजे व खोलने की तिथि 25.5.23 को मध्यान्ह 3.00 बजे। पूर्ण जानकारी एवं निविदा के नियम एवं शर्तो हेतु वेबसाइट **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** एवं **www.rajsico.gov.in** देखे।

राज.संवाद/सी/23/2079 **प्रबन्ध निदेशक**

Government of Rajasthan
Office of the District Collector and District Magistrate
District Jaipur

F. No. 1580 **Dated : 09.05.2023**

Invited applications under
Young Interns Program (YIP)-2023 for District Jaipur

The Government of Rajasthan is seeking applications from the willing and talented youth for Young Interns program (YIP)-2023. These interns will be provided opportunity to work with the district administration in the implementation of projects of Government of Rajasthan.

The applications will be accepted through hard copy and also through the e-mail on the folllowing correspondence address :

Deputy Director, Department of Economics & Statistics
216, Second Floor, Dist. Collectorate, Jaipur
Email - dsojpr.des@rajasthan.gov.in

The applications will be opened from 11-05-2023 and shall close on 19-05-2023 at 05:00 P.M.

The applications form, Eligibility criteria, procedure for selection, stipend and other details are available at the district website - **www.jaipur.rajasthan.gov.in** and also on the websites **www.statistics.rajasthan.gov.in** and **www.yip.rajasthan.gov.in**.

This is purely an internship program and does not provide any type of employment or guarantee for any employment in future.

(Prakash Rajpurohit)
District Collector and
District Magistrate
DIPR/C/6736

Website - pwd.rajasthan.gov.in **E-mail : acezoneii@yahoo.com**

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER PWD, ZONE-II, JAIPUR
PWD Campus, Jacob Road, Opp. Jaipur Club, Jaipur
Ph. : 0141-2226537

No. 138 **Dated : 27/4/23**

Corrigendum in NIT No. 40/2022-23

In the tender notice number 40/2022-23 published by this office's letter number 2902 dated 27-03-2023 the tender dates are amended as follows :-

S. No.	Detail	In Place of	To be Read
1	Date of download bid Farm	31.03.2023 at 5.00 PM to 01-05-2023 at 6.00 PM	31.03.2023 at 5.00 PM to 11-05-2023 at 6.00 PM
2	Date of Upload bid Form	31.03.2023 at 5.00 PM to 01-05-2023 at 6.00 PM	31.03.2023 at 5.00 PM to 11-05-2023 at 6.00 PM
3	Date of Bid opening	02.05.2023 at 2.00 PM	12.05.2023 at 2.00 PM

Other conditions of the tender will remain unchanged.

UBN:

S. No	UBN No.	S. No	UBN No.
1	PWD2223WLOB20300	5	PWD2223WLOB20372
2	PWD2223WLOB20343	6	PWD2223WLOB20073
3	PWD2223WLOB20346	7	PWD2223WLOB20422
4	PWD2223WSOB20350	8	PWD2223WLOB20388

Additional Chief Engineer
PWD Zone-II, Jaipur
DIPR/C/6372 **Date :- 27/4/23**

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, वृत बून्दी

क्रमांक : केशियर / 152 दिनांक : 27.04.2023

निविदा सूचना संख्या 03 /2023–24
NIB Code PWD2324A0297

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से **संविधान की धारा 275 (1) मद (माड़ा योजना) अन्तर्गत विभिन्न सड़क निर्माण कार्य** के लिये उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार / केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों / केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग / डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/ रेल्वे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के उपयुक्त पात्र श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष से पाँच वर्ष की गारण्टी अवधि सहित निम्न कार्यों की निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्युरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑन लाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

निविदा से सम्बन्धित समस्त विवरण वेबसाईट "www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in", http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in तथा http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाईट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर रजिस्टर करवाना आवश्यक है। निविदा अपलोड करने की तारीख 04.05.2023 से 24.05.2023 को सायं 6:00 बजे तक।

UBN is: PWD2324WSOB01202
UBN is: PWD2324WSOB01203
UBN is: PWD2324WSOB01204

(वी.के. जैन)
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
सा.नि.वि. वृत बून्दी
DIPR/C/6256/23

INBRIEF

SC turns down Sanjiv Bhatt's plea to submit more evidence

The Supreme Court on Wednesday rejected a plea by former Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Sanjiv Bhatt to submit additional evidence to back his appeal pending in the Gujarat High Court against conviction in a 1990 custodial death case. A Bench of Justices M.R. Shah and C.T. Ravikumar also rejected Mr. Bhatt's plea seeking recusal of Justice Shah from hearing the matter. Mr. Bhatt had contended that there was a reasonable apprehension of bias as Justice Shah, as High Court judge, had castigated the petitioner while hearing his plea linked to the same First Information Report (FIR).

Background 'mic access' by WhatsApp to be investigated

Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar said on Wednesday that the IT Ministry would investigate a claim that messaging platform WhatsApp accessed a user's microphone while he was sleeping. "WhatsApp has been using the microphone in the background, while I was asleep and since I woke up at 6 a.m.," Foad Dabiri, an engineering director at Twitter, said on Saturday. "What's going on?" The tweet went viral, attracting over 60 million views. WhatsApp said in a statement that the issue was likely a bug and Google has been asked to investigate the issue and remedy it.

Student death: court says no proof of caste harassment

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

A special court in Mumbai has granted bail to a student accused in the suicide of his batch mate Darshan Solanki in the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay.

"Mere allegations in a suicide note would not be sufficient to draw conclusion that the accused has committed the offence of abetment," the court said in its order.

On May 6, Additional Sessions Judge A.P. Kanade granted bail to Arman Khatri, 18.

A detailed court order, made available on Wednesday, said, " ...there is nothing on record to show that the applicant/accused was harassing the deceased on the ground of caste discrimination."

"Except one incident of showing the paper cutter to the deceased by the applicant, there is nothing on record to show that the accused instigated deceased Darshan to commit suicide," it said.

Those who require assistance for overcoming suicidal thoughts may contact Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health on 011-4076 9002 (10 a.m. to 7.30 p.m., Monday-Saturday).

IIT not to reopen application window for JEE (Advanced)

Nearly 2.5 lakh candidates qualified for JEE (Advanced) after the JEE (Main) and 1.95 lakh of them have registered for the examination

A.M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

The number of applications for the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE), Advanced has increased by 20% to 30% from last year's figure, and the organising institute, the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, has no plans to reopen the application window. The last date for registration was May 7.

The organising chairman of the examination, Bishnupada Mandal, told *The Hindu* that nearly 2.5 lakh candidates qualified for the JEE (Advanced) after the JEE (Main), and 1.95 lakh of them had registered for the examination. There are more than 100 foreign candidates and nearly 800 belong to the overseas Indian and people of Indian origin categories, Professor Mandal said.

He said that usually, the number of applicants varied between 1.5 lakh and 1.6 lakh. "The highest number in the past was 1.7 lakh. But this year, we have an increase of about 20% to 30%," he said.

Organising hub: The JEE (Advanced) is conducted by the various IITs on a rotational basis. FILE PHOTO

There is a steady increase in the number of students every year. "This time, there is no COVID. Previous years, there was a little drop due to COVID," he said.

Asked about the requests from sections of students that the last date to submit applications be extended, Professor Mandal said the institute had given a longer period for registration this year. In the previous years, dates were extended considering such complaints. "Usually, the applications are received in four or five days. This year, we had eight days for registration and one day for payment of fees. Dates were quite longer, and a good number of candidates registered, and we do not have any scope to extend the date now," he said. He said a few students had written to the organising institute seeking an extension. "It is usual. Every year, some students who miss the deadline write to us. But we follow a strict deadline," he said.

Foreign medical graduates can intern in any State

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

State Medical Councils cannot deny allotments on the basis of domicile

The State Medical Councils shall not deny allotment of medical colleges for internships to foreign medical graduates (FMG) on the basis of their domicile, and they can complete their internship from a medical college in any State or Union Territory if they are otherwise eligible, the National Medical Commission (NMC) has said.

The commission has released a list of recognised non-teaching hospitals for compulsory rotating internships across the country.

Guidelines issued

The regulatory body for medical education and medical professionals has also issued a consolidated circular of its guidelines on the mode and method of medical internships for foreign medical graduates in India. The NMC noted that they may be posted to medical colleges or institutions through a counselling or seat allocation process based on merit.

It added that a number of requests and queries from different State Medical Councils had been received on the non-availability of seats for them to begin their internships in their State, especially because of the implementation of two-year internship for them.

"It has been decided by the Undergraduate Medical Education Board to validate the list of recognised non-teaching hospitals for compulsory rotating medical internship issued by the erstwhile Medical Council of India, for a period of one year up to May 2024 for conducting of internship for FMGs only. This relaxation is granted only as a one-time measure. The allotment of FMGs in these non-teaching hospitals shall also be done only through the concerned State Medical Council," the NMC said.

It has also clarified that that the provision of the two-year internship (the notice was issued in 2022) is applicable only to those in the last year of their study who had returned to India due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine conflict and so on.

CBSE flags fake notice on Class 10, 12 result date

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has flagged as fake a "circular" that the results of Class 10 and 12 will be declared on Thursday. The hoax had gone viral on social media, causing anxiety to students and parents.

In an official tweet on Wednesday, the CBSE flagged the fake notice. The Board said it would confirm the date of the results soon.

Candidates would get the official notice on its website, www.cbse.gov.in.

The fake notice had the forged signature of Joseph Emmanuel, Director (Academics), CBSE.

It said that students could access results using a registered mobile number and enter the security pin and the OTP.

Study on sludge finds high potential for use as fertilizer after treatment

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

A first-of-its-kind analysis of the sludge found in Indian sewage treatment plants (STP), set up to treat polluted water from the Ganga, found that most of it had "high potential" for use as fertilizer, but required treatment before it could be used unrestricted on farms or as a potential biofuel.

Wastewater when treated leaves behind organic sludge that is also a repository of effluents and bacterial contaminants. FILE PHOTO

An emerging initiative of the National Mission for Clean Ganga, a flagship programme of the government to establish treatment facilities and prevent pollution of the river, is to derive livelihood opportunities from the river rejuvenation programme. One of the measures under this, "Arth Ganga" (economic value from Ganga), is to "monetise" and reuse treated wastewater and sludge. This means converting sludge – a thick residue that while rich in organic chemicals is also a repository of heavy metals, industrial effluents and bacterial contaminants – into usable products such as manure and bricks.

Treated sludge can be classified as class A or B – as per the standards of the United States Environment Protection Agency – with class A being safe to be disposed of in the open and useful as organic fertilizer. Class B means that the sludge can be used in "restricted" agricultural applications, the edible parts of the crop not be exposed to the sludge-mixed soil, and animals and people not come into extensive contact. India does not yet have standards classifying sludge as class A or B.

A study by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee found that most of the sludge analysed after drying fell into the class B category. Nitrogen and phosphorous levels – the basic soil nutrients – were higher than those recommended by India's fertilizer standards (FCO, 2009). However, potassium levels in some samples were less than recommended. The total organic carbon was more than 16%, again higher than FCO recommendations, but the degree of pathogens as well as heavy metal contamination was above the recommended standard.

"This is the first time such a project has been conceived in India," D.P. Mathuria, a senior official in the NMCG, said. "Only when we have data about the chemical characteristics of the sludge can we then ask developers to adopt practices on treatment and safe disposal of sludge."

ICMR conducts trial run of blood bag delivery by drone

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) on Wednesday successfully conducted a trial run of delivery of blood bags under its iDrone initiative.

The trial run has been undertaken for the first time in the country by the ICMR; Lady Hardinge Medical College (LHMC); Government Institute of Medical Sciences (GIMS), Greater Noida; and the Jaypee Institute of Information Technology (JIIT), Noida, a release issued by the Health Ministry said.

The inaugural trial flight carried 10 units of whole blood samples from the GIMS and the LHMC in visual line of sight.

"The i-DRONE was first used during the COVID-19 pandemic by the ICMR for distributing vaccines to remote areas. Today, we are transporting blood and blood-related products which are supposed to be kept at a low temperature. After the experiment, we found that not only can we maintain the temperature, there was also no damage to the products transported," Rajiv Bahl, Director-General, ICMR, said.

The inaugural flight carried 10 units of whole blood samples.

More drone flights will be conducted to validate the quality of blood products transported.

The Kerala Story: SC to hear plea against ban

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday urgently listed a petition filed by the makers of the *The Kerala Story* against the ban in West Bengal on screening the film and the Tamil Nadu government's *de facto* freeze on the movie for a hearing on Friday.

Chief Justice D. Y. Chandrachud initially told senior advocate Harish Salve that the appeal against the Kerala High Court's refusal to stay the release of the movie on May 5 was coming up for hearing on May 15, and this case could be listed along with that. Mr. Salve pleaded urgency, saying the makers were "losing money every day".

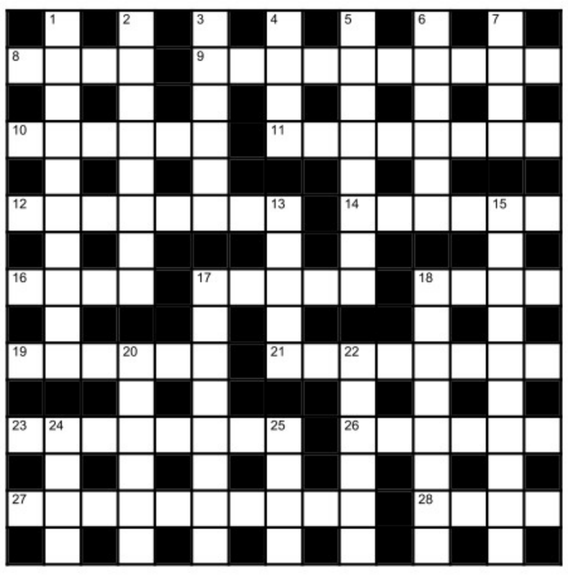
Multiple petitioners have argued that the film demonised Muslims, particularly youth.

TH CROSSWORD + 13862

(set by Incognito)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Animal's dark spot (4)
9 Cain murdered churchman? Wrong! (10)
10 "Die horribly on hill, journalist!" (6)
11 Beatles drove around carrying Tesla's safety device (4,4)
12 Oddly, United Nations female starts to loiter in New York (8)
14 Snake consumes bits of dangerously exposed gingerbread in convenience store in New York city (6)
16 Slight mispronunciation (4)
17 Angry corsair loses head (5)
18 Female took the lead and scarpered (4)
19 Rejected red rum results in homicide (6)
21 Relatives who may be pests on Sunday (8)
23 Extraordinary debate about one small disease (8)
26 Doctor's consulting place has some liniment in small measure (6)
27 Swiss member state soldiers start to train in military area (10)
28 Insomniac hero's pain (4)

Down

1 Old bouncer can make meat and cheese dish (6,4)
2 Felt confused about residual food (8)
3 Fruit? Crone endlessly consumes it! (6)
4 Girl leaves old Nigerian capital for country in Asia (4)
5 How to cook eggs or order fighter planes into action? (8)
6 Dishonestly induced hiding of bone in sack (6)
7 Alien, criminal and others in Rome (2,2)
13 Yankee devours poet (5)
15 Breaking the leg ring? Go ahead! (5,5)
17 For starters, Indian Railways train is vandalised before commencement of tour. It can be troublesome... (8)
18 It's time for celebration if valets dance (8)
20 Girl making first entrance in society had discussion (6)
22 Wrong excise tax after exporting sax results in stir (6)
24 One vehicle for someone terrible? (4)
25 Observed new bishop's jurisdiction at first (4)

SUDOKU

	3		5	4				6
		4	7		8			1
							9	
			2				7	5
		3				8		
5	8				4			
	9							
2			4		5	3		
3				9	7		1	

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

	Y	D	A	C	D	W	S	
H	O	P	I	N	O	S	E	A	N	K	H
	G	S	A	L	F	I	I	
P	I	G	P	E	N	O	V	E	R	T	I	M	E
		E	A	G	A	E		
I	M	P	R	I	S	O	N	T	H	R	E	A	T
	E	S			E	E		N	
V	E	T	E	R	A	N	E	D	U	C	A	T	E
	T			B	C			A	R	
O	S	I	R	I	S	A	R	R	A	N	G	E	D
		I	O	P	O	O		
P	A	M	P	H	L	E	T	W	I	N	K	L	E
	L	V	V	U	E	I	E	
A	S	I	A	E	N	R	O	L	S	H	A	M
	O	N	D	E	S	E	D	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	6	1	4	7	8	9	3	5
8	5	9	2	6	3	7	1	4
4	7	3	9	1	5	8	6	2
7	2	5	6	8	4	3	9	1
9	1	6	3	5	7	4	2	8
3	8	4	1	2	9	5	7	6
6	4	7	5	3	2	1	8	9
1	9	8	7	4	6	2	5	3
5	3	2	8	9	1	6	4	7

FAITH

Sumantra consoles king

Dasaratha and Kausalya are unable to come to terms with Rama's absence. Sumantra is a wise minister, offering good counsel to the king in difficult times, said Navalpakkam Vasudevachariar, in a discourse. So he now offers words of consolation to the royal family. He says that there is no need for such anguish on their part, for Rama Himself is calm and content. He is not upset about having to live in the forest, away from the comforts of palace life. As for Lakshmana it is enough if he is able to serve Rama. Had he been in the palace, he would not have been able to serve Rama in so many ways, for the servants would not have allowed Lakshmana to undertake all these tasks. After all Lakshmana too was a prince, and the servants would have thought it their duty to serve Rama, and not the duty of prince Lakshmana. But in the forest, Lakshmana has the joy of doing everything possible for Rama.

As for Sita, She does not seem to be in the least upset about being in the forest. She is unperturbed, and it almost seems as if She is accustomed to such a life. She looks at the sights in the forest, as if She were looking at the beautiful gardens in Ayodhya. In any case, had She been forced to stay back in Ayodhya, without Rama, then Ayodhya would have seemed to Her like a cruel jungle. But when Rama is with Her in the forest, the forest becomes as delightful as Ayodhya. She watches the rivers in the forest, and is curious about the trees there. Her face has lost none of its charm. It is still as pleasing as the moon. Her ankles still have the pinkish hue of lotuses. She is unafraid, and if She sees a lion, tiger or an elephant, She leans on Rama's shoulders.

WARSAW

Poland changes Kaliningrad name in a move against 'Russification'

AP

Poland will stop using the official name for Russia's Kaliningrad enclave and revert to its historic equivalent, the government said, drawing Moscow's ire. Quoting a state commission tasked with standardising foreign names in the Polish language, Poland said Kaliningrad would now officially be called Konigsberg. AFP

HONG KONG

Hong Kong bans foreign lawyers from national security cases

AP

Hong Kong amended a law to bar foreign lawyers from working on national security cases, allowing exceptions only if the city's leader permits. The change stems from repeated failed attempts by the Hong Kong government to prevent Tim Owen, a prominent British rights lawyer, from defending media tycoon Jimmy Lai. AFP

MOSCOW

Russia's Lavrov hosts landmark Turkey-Syria rapprochement talks

AP

Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov hosted his counterparts from Turkey, Syria and Iran for talks that marked the highest-level contact between Ankara and Damascus since the start of the Syrian civil war. Russia has spent years trying to help Syrian President Bashar Assad rebuild ties with Turkey and other countries. AP

TEHRAN

Iran hangs seven more persons in execution 'spree': rights group

AP

Iran executed seven men in two prisons outside Tehran on drugs and rape charges on Wednesday, a rights group said, accelerating what activists describe as a hanging spree over the past two weeks. the Norway-based Iran Human Rights said the latest hangings mean Iran has seen at least 64 executions in the last 12 days alone. AFP

Imran sent to 8-day remand; PM's house attacked as violence spreads

Apart from the Al-Qadir Trust case, the former Pakistan PM indicted in one more graft case; at least seven killed during protests; Army deployed in four provinces; Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif promises strict action against protesters

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD/LAHORE

Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan was on Wednesday sent on an eight-day remand to the anti-corruption watchdog while a sessions court indicted him in a separate graft case, amid violent protests that left at least seven persons dead and prompted deployment of the army in Islamabad and three provinces.

The 70-year-old chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was taken into custody by the paramilitary Rangers on Tuesday on the orders of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) by barging into a room of the Islamabad High Court.

Roughed up: The police detain a man who was protesting against the arrest of Imran Khan in Lahore on Wednesday. AP

On Wednesday, Mr. Khan was produced in the Anti-Accountability Court No. 1 presided by judge Muhammad Bashir, the same judge who had convicted former premier Nawaz Sharif and his daughter Maryam in a corruption case of having properties in London.

In its verdict, the court handed over Mr. Khan for an eight-day remand to the NAB.

During the hearing, the NAB lawyers requested the court to grant a 14-day remand of Mr. Khan to probe the allegations against him in the Al-Qadir Trust case in which he is accused of looting Rs 50 billion of the national treasury. But Mr. Khan's lawyer opposed the plea and asked the judge to release him as the charges were fabricated. Separately, the District and Sessions Court indicted Khan in the Toshakhana case.

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif condemned the deadly protests by the supporters of Mr. Khan. "Attack on public property is an act of terrorism and enmity towards the country," Mr. Sharif said, adding that those taking the law into their own hands would be dealt with an iron fist.

Mr. Khan's supporters attacked the Lahore residence of Mr. Sharif. According to the police, over 500 miscreants from the PTI party reached the Model Town Lahore residence of the Prime Minister in the early hours of Wednesday and set ablaze vehicles parked over there. "They also threw petrol bombs inside the premiere's house," a senior police officer said.

Israel, Palestinian militants trade fire despite truce claim

Associated Press
GAZA CITY

Palestinian militants fired hundreds of rockets from the Gaza Strip into Israel on Wednesday, while Israel pressed ahead with a series of airstrikes that have killed 21 Palestinians, including three senior militants and at least 10 civilians.

As the fighting continued, a state-run Egyptian TV station announced that Egypt had brokered a cease-fire. But shortly after the announcement, more rockets were fired toward Israel, including a new salvo at the seaside metropolis of Tel Aviv, while Israel struck more targets in Gaza. The continued fighting raised questions about if or when a truce would take effect.

First blood: Mourners carry the body of an Islamic Jihad gunman during the funeral in the West Bank on Wednesday. REUTERS

In a prime-time TV address, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu claimed that Israel had dealt a harsh blow to the militants. But he cautioned: "This round is not over."

Heaviest fighting

It was the heaviest fighting between the sides in months, pushing the region closer toward a full-blown war.

But in signs that both sides were trying to show restraint, Israel avoided attacks on the ruling Hamas militant group, targeting only the smaller and more militant Islamic Jihad faction.

Hamas, meanwhile, appeared to remain on the sidelines.

Pakistan's 'all-weather' ally China remains silent on Imran's arrest

Ananth Krishnan

A day after the arrest of Imran Khan and widespread protests across Pakistan, the country's "all-weather" ally China remained silent on the unfolding political crisis there.

Beijing's silence is indicative of its broader approach to Pakistan, which has come to lean heavily on the military establishment. Indeed, only two weeks before the arrest of Mr. Khan, Beijing was playing host to Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff Syed Asim Munir, perhaps the only foreign military chief who routinely meets with China's top diplomats besides the military brass. Only three days before the arrest, the Army chief held talks with visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang, who was in Pakistan for trilateral talks with Afghanistan.

Qin Gang

In Beijing, the Army chief met with Politburo member and top diplomat Wang Yi, on April 27. Mr. Wang pointedly described the Pakistan Army as "a staunch defender of Pakistan's national security and stability, and also a staunch defender of China-Pakistan 'ironclad' friendship." "China," he added, "appreciates the successive Pakistani governments and all political parties for firmly pursuing friendly policies towards China and standing with China on issues concerning China's core interests and major concerns".

Mr. Wang's comments point to the broad view in China's strategic community that the Army, rather than civilian elected governments, can be better relied upon by Beijing to ensure stability. For China, the protection of its personnel in Pakistan is among its highest priorities. While in Pakistan, Mr. Qin stressed "that stability is a prerequisite for development, and security the foundation of strength and prosperity."

Hu Shisheng, a leading South Asia scholar at the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations in Beijing, said his "general feeling is that the arrest of the former Prime Minister will lead to more political chaos, more political demonstrations on the streets." He suggested that the Army, courts and political establishment will look "to end this political drama in the coming days" and that Mr. Khan's PTI would remain a political force.

Wang Dehua, director and professor of the Institute of South and Central Asia Studies in Shanghai, was critical of Pakistan's political "elites". "As Pakistan stands on the brink of economic collapse and runs out of money, the country's elite must honestly take stock. For far too long, they have relied on regressive taxes and extractive economic policies to impoverish the masses while enriching themselves," he said. "This inability of Pakistan's elites to internalise and grapple with the ongoing crisis is reflected on mainstream and social media, where the conversation, to this day, has barely matured beyond the typical finger-pointing and arguments in bad faith that are the norm in the country's political landscape."

China objects to India's bid to blacklist senior JeM leader at the UN

Press Trust of India

China has objected to a proposal by India to blacklist senior Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terrorist Abdul Rauf Azhar at the United Nations Security Council.

Brother of JeM chief Masood Azhar, Abdul Rauf has been involved in planning and executing numerous terror strikes in India including the hijacking of Indian Airlines aircraft IC814 in 1999, the attack on Parliament in 2001 and the targeting of the IAF base in Pathankot in 2016.

It is learnt that China objected to the proposal from India to add Abdul Rauf of the JeM to the UN Security Council's 1267 ISIL and Al Qaida Sanctions list.

Beijing had last year put holds on proposals to blacklist Pakistan-based terrorists Hafiz Talah Saeed, Lashkar-e-Taiba leader Shahid Mahmood and Lashkar-e-Tayyiba terrorist Sajid Mir.

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of West Bengal Enterprise)
Registered Office: Vidyut Bhavan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700 091
CIN: U40101WB2007SGC113474 • web: www.wbsetcl.in
WBSETCL
NIT No.: CE(P)/WBSETCL/33kv&25kv PT/23-24/04 Date: 11.05.2023
The Chief Engineer (Procurement) invites e-Tender for procurement of 33 kV & 25 kV Potential Transformers. Interested bidders may obtain bidding documents by registering themselves on the e-tendering portal (https://wbtenders.gov.in). Bid documents can be downloaded from 11.05.2023, 11:00 A.M. and bids shall be submitted (online) up to 12:00 Noon, 12.06.2023. Visit the Company's website www.wbsetcl.in for details.
ICA- T9581(3)/2023

डीआईपीआर 5085 दिनांक 04.04.2023
कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सा.नि.वि. ग्रामीण वृत जोधपुर
क्रमाक : अअ/ग्रावृ./2023-24/ 305 दिनांक : 25/04/2023
निविदा -संशोधन सूचना 13 / 2022-23
NIB: PWD2223A4935
इस कार्यालय द्वारा जारी निविदा सूचना संख्या 13/2022-23 में अंकित समस्त कार्यों की निविदायें ऑनलाईन प्रस्तुत किये जाने की दिनांक 11.05.2023 को सांय 6:00 बजे तक बढ़ाई जाती है। तकनीकी निविदायें दिनांक 12.05.2023 को प्रातः 11:00 बजे संबंधित कार्यालय में ऑनलाईन खोली जायेगी। निविदा की अन्य शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।

1. PWD 2223WSRC19821	2. PWD 2223WSRC19824
3. PWD 2223WSRC19830	4. PWD 2223WSRC19832
5. PWD 2223WSRC19833	6. PWD 2223WSRC19835

(डी.आर.माधव)
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता,
सा नि वि ग्रामीण वृत जोधपुर
DIPR/C/6363/2023

INBRIEF

Twitter to soon allow calls, encrypted messaging: Musk

Twitter Inc. CEO Elon Musk disclosed details about new features, including adding calls and encrypted messaging coming to the platform. The call feature on Twitter will bring the micro-blogging platform into line with the likes of Meta's social media applications, Facebook and Instagram, which have similar features. Mr. Musk said a version of encrypted direct messages will be available on Twitter starting Wednesday, but did not say if calls will be encrypted. REUTERS

GAIL said to plan $4.9 billion ethane cracker unit in India

GAIL (India) Ltd., the country's top gas supplier, plans to build a ₹400-billion ($4.89 billion) ethane cracker near its liquefied natural gas import plant in Western India, two sources with direct knowledge of the matter said, as it seeks to meet an expected surge in demand. India's per capita petrochemical consumption is about one-third of the global average. Asia's third-largest economy annually consumes 25-30 million tonnes of petrochemicals. REUTERS

'Walmart in India set to meet goal of sourcing $10-bn goods'

Walmart Inc. said it was all set to meet its goal of sourcing goods worth $10 billion from India each year by 2027. CEO Doug McMillon, who was in India to meet suppliers, partners and SMES, said the retailer would continue to build a holistic ecosystem that includes a wholesale cash-and-carry business, e-commerce platforms, payments and financial services platforms, as well as logistics and supply chain capabilities.

NCLT admits Go First's insolvency plea, allows moratorium on leases

Airline's ability to resume flights clouded by uncertainty over aircraft, pilot availability; one lessor appeals to NCLAT against order, others seek to have planes deregistered; Air India, IndiGo, Akasa set to hire about 500 cockpit crew from carrier

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on Wednesday admitted Go Airlines' plea for voluntary insolvency and granted protection under moratorium from adverse actions by lessors, lenders, DGCA, airports and fuel suppliers.

The NCLT has appointed Abhilash Lal from Alvarez & Marsal as the Interim Resolution Professional (IRP) and directed initiation of Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process for the carrier that operates under the Go First brand.

"The IRP will ensure to take all necessary steps including the execution of the arbitral award to keep the corporate debtor (Go First) as a going concern and run its services smoothly," the tribunal ruled. It added that the IRP must also ensure that no employees were laid off.

Bankruptcy protection

Go Airlines has won an opportunity from the NCLT to revive operations under an Insolvency Resolution Professional

- Tribunal grants protection from adverse actions by lessors, lenders, DGCA, airports and fuel suppliers
- NCLT directs IRP to ensure no employees face retrenchment
- SMBC Aviation Capital, which has leased at least seven aircraft, moves National Company Appellate Law Tribunal to challenge the order

Immediate appeal

SMBC Aviation Capital, which has leased at least seven aircraft to Go First, moved the National Company Appellate Law Tribunal to challenge the order. Lessors have already terminated lease agreements for 45 of the carrier's 54 aircraft and have requested the DGCA to deregister the aircraft. They contend that the moratorium cannot be enforced retrospectively. Also, 26 aircraft had already been grounded following issues with their Pratt & Whitney engines.

Meanwhile, in a market faced with pilot shortages, Air India is learnt to be in the process of hiring 350 pilots from the bankrupt airline. About 50 offer letters have already been issued, a senior AI official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, confirmed. Almost 50-100 pilots are set to join IndiGo, and another 50 may join Akasa, sources among Go First pilots said.

L&T Q4 net rises 10%, Naik to step down

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Larsen & Toubro Ltd. (L&T) reported fourth-quarter consolidated net profit grew 10% to ₹3,987 crore year-on-year (Y-o-Y). Revenue from operations rose 10% to ₹58,335 crore.

For the financial year ended March 31, reported net profit rose 21% to ₹10,471 crore. Revenue from operations at ₹1,83,341 crore climbed 17% Y-o-Y aided by strong execution of a large order book in the infrastructure projects segment and a robust momentum in the IT&TS portfolio, L&T said.

Final dividend

The board has recommended a final dividend of ₹24 per equity share.

L&T also said A. M. Naik has decided to step down as Non-Executive Chairman of the company with effect from September 30.

Engine maker to oppose Go's push to press arbitration

Reuters
NEW DELHI

Pratt & Whitney plans to oppose Go Airlines (India) Ltd.'s push to enforce an arbitration ruling against the U.S. company for the supply of spare engines, a court filing showed.

Go First approached the Delaware court after it won an arbitration order in Singapore against Pratt & Whitney, which it said failed to supply engines on time. That, the airline argues, also forced it to file for bankruptcy in India.

CPI data spurs bet on end to Fed rate hikes

Reuters

April's Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation figure of 4.9%, a reading that was more benign than expected, disrupted the modest momentum that had been building for an 11th straight U.S. interest rate increase in June.

Futures tied to the Federal Reserve's policy rate rose after the Labor Department report, and now reflect less than a 10% chance that the Fed will raise its policy overnight interest rate in June, with the bulk of bets on a pause.

Inflation in core services excluding housing – a key metric for Fed Chair Jerome Powell because of its outsized contribution to overall inflation – eased from the prior month, according to estimates from several economists.

"We continue to see the data and financial conditions firmly supporting a pause in June," Morgan Stanley economists wrote. Mr. Powell and other Fed policymakers have said they are watching credit conditions especially closely, as a drop in bank lending could slow the economy faster than the Fed rate hikes alone would do.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	61,940	0.29
US Dollar	81.94	0.15
Gold	61,585	0.46
Brent oil	76.65	1.36

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	1892.15	-3.95
Adani Ports	691.00	0.50
Apollo Hosp	4601.30	8.25
Asian Paints	3041.40	6.60
Axis Bank	889.90	1.65
Bajaj Auto	4555.95	27.10
Bajaj Finserv	1414.45	5.75
Bajaj Finance	6631.50	79.25
Bharti Airtel	796.05	2.45
BPCL	372.15	5.10
Britannia Ind	4604.95	9.80
Cipla	944.40	5.20
Coal India	236.55	0.20
Divis Lab	3425.25	42.05
Dr Reddys Lab	4867.30	-65.95
Eicher Motors	3416.75	34.85
Grasim Ind	1774.40	9.50
HCL Tech	1078.30	-0.70
HDFC	2752.65	2.60
HDFC Bank	1652.10	7.60
HDFC Life	562.65	10.60
Hero MotoCorp	2586.05	-5.50
Hindalco	436.45	-3.90
Hind Unilever	2522.70	6.90
ICICI Bank	936.05	1.65
IndusInd Bank	1172.55	31.95
Infosys	1263.25	-7.45
ITC	425.35	1.55
JSW Steel	724.35	-0.25
Kotak Bank	1958.70	4.40
L&T	2364.45	-9.90
M&M	1248.65	3.20
Maruti Suzuki	9168.15	56.60
NestleIndia	22050.00	78.65
NTPC	177.05	1.05
ONGC	166.95	1.70
PowerGrid Corp	247.65	4.25
Reliance Ind	2496.60	17.05
SBI Life	1188.80	5.65
State Bank	572.20	-1.30
Sun Pharma	953.80	-3.65
TataConsumerProduct	791.15	2.15
Tata Motors	509.50	5.85
Tata Steel	109.25	-0.30
TCS	3286.80	3.55
Tech Mahindra	1046.15	-1.65
Titan	2745.45	-2.95
UltraTech Cement	7743.20	26.95
UPL	679.70	-14.70
Wipro	383.75	1.45

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on May 10

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	81.79	82.11
Euro	89.59	89.94
British Pound	103.18	103.59
Japanese Yen (100)	60.49	60.73
Chinese Yuan	11.81	11.86
Swiss Franc	91.78	92.15
Singapore Dollar	61.60	61.84
Canadian Dollar	61.05	61.31
Malaysian Ringitt	18.34	18.43
Australian Dollar	55.23	55.49

Source:Indian Bank

MG Motor to invest ₹5,000 crore in India

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

MG Motor India said it planned to invest ₹5,000 crore in the country, including in setting up a second manufacturing unit in Gujarat, and dilute its stake to local investors as part of a five-year roadmap to 'Indianise' operations.

The company said it plans to ramp up its direct and indirect employee strength to 20,000 by 2028, from about 3,000 currently, with plans to introduce about five more vehicles, mostly electric.

Unveiling a blueprint to dilute its shareholding, the firm said majority stake would be owned by Indians in 2-4 years, even as it would raise production capacity to 3,00,000 vehicles a year. MG's unit at Halol in Gujarat currently has an annual capacity to make 1.2 lakh vehicles.

JSW Infra files papers for ₹2,800-cr. IPO

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

JSW Infrastructure has filed the Draft Red Herring Prospectus for its initial public offering with SEBI to raise up to ₹2,800 crore.

The firm plans to deploy the funds to retire debt and fund capacity expansion.

'G20 panel will help boost MDBs' capital'

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

The G20 expert panel on multilateral development banks'(MDBs) reforms will come out with 'tangible recommendations that can make a decisive difference,' Co-chair N. K. Singh asserted on Wednesday.

Stressing the panel 'is not a research committee,' Mr. Singh sought to assure possible sceptics that its report will recommend measures that can make a critical difference, including new mechanisms to raise private capital.

The aim is to help multilateral lenders or MDBs raise capacity to fund global public goods, necessary to cope with vulnerabilities arising from climate change, along with their original goals to remove extreme poverty and enhance shared prosperity in the world.

N. K. Singh

DRL Q4 net jumps tenfold, declares ₹40 final dividend

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Dr. Reddy's Laboratories (DRL) reported consolidated net profit for the fourth quarter ended March jumped almost tenfold to ₹960.1 crore on the back of a better show in its mainstay global generics business and impairment charges being a fraction of the ₹741.9 crore recorded in the year-earlier period.

The board has recommended a final dividend of ₹40 per equity share (of ₹5 each) for FY23.

'Cisco to manufacture gear in Tamil Nadu'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Chuck Robbins

Technology firm Cisco announced on Wednesday that it would start manufacturing operations in India as it seeks to create a "more diverse and resilient global supply chain and support India's vision of becoming a global manufacturing hub".

The manufacturing facility in Tamil Nadu would create 1,200 jobs, Cisco Chair and CEO Chuck Robbins said in a press conference.

The company said it aimed to achieve $1 billion in combined domestic production and exports in the "coming years".

Tamil Nadu Industries Minister Thangam Thenarasu thanked Mr. Robbins and his team for reposing their trust in the State.
(With PTI inputs)

Sport

Honours even in Madrid, all to play for in Manchester

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
MADRID

Thunderbolt: De Bruyne lets fly City's equaliser against Real. GETTY IMAGES

Kevin De Bruyne's brilliant drive earned Manchester City a 1-1 draw at Real Madrid in a gripping Champions League semifinal first leg battle on Tuesday.

The Belgian slammed Pep Guardiola's visitors level after Vinicius Junior opened the scoring for the reigning champion from distance in similarly spectacular fashion.

Madrid managed to completely shackle lethal striker Erling Haaland but De Bruyne's powerful effort left the tie on a knife edge ahead of the second leg in Manchester next week.

The record 14-time winner knocked City out at the same stage last season despite being outplayed in both games, and took the lead at the Santiago Bernabeu against the run of play.

However when Madrid found its stride in the second half, City – still chasing its first ever Champions League trophy – hit back through De Bruyne. Guardiola selected Kyle Walker at right-back to combat the pacy threat of Real Madrid winger Vinicius, while Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti opted for Toni Kroos at the base of midfield.

Rodrygo, who struck two late goals as a substitute last season against Manchester City to pave Madrid's passage into the final, started after his Copa del Rey heroics on Saturday.

The visitors controlled much of the first half, with nearly 70% possession, but went in trailing at the break. Thibaut Courtois fielded an early barrage of shots from De Bruyne, Rodri and Haaland, as City dominated and Madrid sat back, soaking up the pressure.

Guardiola's side was issued a warning when Vinicius won the ball high up the pitch and crossed for Karim Benzema but Ruben Dias made a superb interception.

It was Madrid's only attack of note after half an hour and even though City was peppering Courtois, it was the closest either side came, until Vinicius struck. The second leg takes place on May 17, with the winner facing Inter Milan or AC Milan in the final.

The result (semifinal, first leg): Real Madrid 1 (Vinicius 36) drew with Manchester City 1 (De Bruyne 67).

Bhoria, Hussamuddin and Nishant ensure medals with superb displays

BOXING WORLDS

Sports Bureau

Deepak Bhoria (51kg), Mohammad Hussamuddin (57kg) and Nishant Dev (71kg) performed exceptionally well to win their last-eight bouts and enter the semifinals of the World boxing championships in Tashkent on Wednesday.

The trio not only ensured medals but also helped India record its best-ever showing. The previous best tally by the country's male boxers was two – a silver by Amit Panghal and a bronze by Manish Kaushik, in Yekaterinburg in 2019.

The day began brightly with comeback man Bhoria outsmarting Kyrgyzstan's Nurzhigit Dioushebaev 5-0.

After taking the watchful first round 5-0, Bhoria tackled an attacking Dioushebaev tactically.

The Indian, who countered beautifully with combinations of three-four punches, connected a solid left to put Dioushebaev through counting in the second round. Bhoria inflicted another eight-count on his rival in the third before advancing.

"Boxing from a long range and using the left hook worked. Hope to continue like this," said Bhoria, who will fight Frenchman Billal Bennama.

The experienced Hussamuddin upset fifth-seeded Bulgarian Javier Ibanez Diaz 4-3, via bout review, in a closely-contested fight.

Hussamuddim relied on his ring craft to stay marginally ahead in the second period and matched the Bulgarian in the physical third round, which witnessed both going all out, to emerge triumphant.

Young southpaw Nishant outshone Cuban Terry Jorge Cuellar 5-0.

Raising the game

Nishant raised his game exemplarily to execute his rapid and powerful punches and put Cuellar under pressure in the opening round.

Even as the Cuban showed more aggression, Nishant's mobility and clean shots helped him. He was up to the task in the exhaustive third period, which witnessed heavy trading of punches.

SMOOTH OPERATION

Rahul undergoes successful thigh surgery, eyes a quick return

K.L. Rahul underwent a successful surgery on his injured right thigh and is looking forward to returning to the national side soon. "I just got done with my surgery. It was successful," Rahul wrote on social media. "A big thanks to the doctors and medical staff for making sure I was comfortable and everything went smoothly."

HOPING FOR THE BEST

Bangar expects Rohit to turn things around in WTC final

Royal Challengers Bangalore's head coach Sanjay Bangar wants Mumbai Indians skipper Rohit Sharma to come good soon. "He has been playing for such a long period of time and captaining India and the franchise as well... it is very important for India that he fires and does really well in the World Test Championship (WTC) final."

MILESTONE ALERT

Suryakumar goes past 3,000 runs during match-winning knock

Mumbai Indians batter Suryakumar Yadav completed 3,000 runs in the IPL during his match-winning knock against Royal Challengers Bangalore on Tuesday. The 32-year-old now has 3,020 runs at an average of 30.82 and a strike-rate of 141.45. He has scored 20 half-centuries, his highest being 83.

HAVING A BALL

It was fun to bat with Suryakumar and up the order: Wadhera

Mumbai Indians batter Nehal Wadhera said it was fun to bat with Suryakumar Yadav and up the order during the thrilling chase against Royal Challengers Bangalore. "When Suryakumar and I were batting, he told me to 'keep playing. If both of us bat till the 15th-16th over, we can finish the game early.' That's what we did," said Wadhera.

Super Kings march ahead with a clinical win

Chennai's spinners Jadeja, Moeen and Theekshana strangle the Capitals batters on a slow surface after Dhoni's men post a challenging total of 167

IPL-16

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Chennai Super Kings pulled a page out of its old playbook of putting runs on board and using its spinners to strangle the opposition as it defeated Delhi Capitals by 27 runs at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium. With this win, CSK consolidated its position in the second spot with 15 points.

For the capacity crowd that shows up for Super Kings' home matches, it is all about M.S. Dhoni's cameos with the bat towards the end of the innings.

On Wednesday, the skipper's 20 off nine balls (1x4, 2x6) helped Super Kings to a challenging total of 167 for eight after it elected to bat.

Capitals' chase started on the wrong foot as they slumped to 25 for three by the fourth over with Deepak Chahar removing the openers David Warner and Phil Salt. Both were done in by the slow nature of the pitch, giving simple catches to fielders inside the circle.

Strike force: Dhoni obliged the home crowd with a typical cameo while Chahar's double blow upfront derailed Capitals' chase. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Mix-up

The visitors' woes were compounded by the run out of Mitchell Marsh after a mix-up with Manish Pandey after the latter called for a run and then left his partner stranded.

From there on, Super Kings' spinners came to the party as Maheesh Theekshana, Ravindra Jadeja and Moeen Ali combined to give away just 51 in the 10 overs they bowled between them.

Pandey (27) and Rilee Rossouw (35) steadied the ship with a 59-run stand for the fourth wicket, but neither could strike at even run-a-ball; only 44 came between overs seven and 15. It was during this phase that the Delhi side lost the plot.

Axar Patel put up a valiant fight with a cameo (21, 12b, 1x4, 2x6), but there was just too much for him to do.

Earlier, on a pitch where hitting through the line was difficult, Super Kings put on 49 in the PowerPlay, thanks to a cluster of boundaries from Ruturaj Gaikwad and Ajinkya Rahane.

Capitals fought back through Axar (two for 27) and Kuldeep Yadav (one for 28) to leave the hosts in trouble at 77 for four in the 12th over. Shivam Dube (25, 12b, 3x6) and Ambati Rayudu (23, 17b, 1x4, 1x6) gave the innings the impetus, hitting 23 off Lalit Yadav in the 14th over.

After that, Dhoni and Ravindra Jadeja added a quick 38 off just 18 balls for the seventh wicket.

Dhoni gave the crowd its money's worth when he smashed left-arm pacer Khaleel Ahmed for two sixes and a boundary in the 19th over to get the team past 160. That was more than enough once the Super Kings bowlers got into action.

On a pitch where hitting through the line was difficult, Super Kings scored 49 in the PowerPlay

Dhoni and Jadeja's 38-run stand off just 18 balls swung the momentum the hosts' way

Points Table

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
Gujarat Titans	11	8	3	0	16	0.951
Chennai Super Kings	12	7	4	1	15	0.493
Mumbai Indians	11	6	5	0	12	-0.255
Lucknow Super Giants	11	5	5	1	11	0.294
Rajasthan Royals	11	5	6	0	10	0.388
Kolkata Knight Riders	11	5	6	0	10	-0.079
Royal Challengers	11	5	6	0	10	-0.345
Punjab Kings	11	5	6	0	10	-0.441
Sunrisers Hyderabad	10	4	6	0	8	-0.472
Delhi Capitals	11	4	7	0	8	-0.605

After the CSK-DC match on May 10

SCOREBOARD

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS

Ruturaj Gaikwad c Aman b Axar 24 *(18b, 4x4)*, Devon Conway lbw b Axar 10 *(13b, 1x4)*, Ajinkya Rahane c & b Lalit 21 *(20b, 2x4)*, Moeen Ali c Marsh b Kuldeep 7 *(12b)*, Shivam Dube c Warner b Marsh 25 *(12b, 3x6)*, Ambati Rayudu c Ripal b Khaleel 23 *(17b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Ravindra Jadeja c Axar b Marsh 21 *(16b, 1x4, 1x6)*, M.S. Dhoni c Warner b Marsh 20 *(9b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Deepak Chahar (not out) 1 *(2b)*, Tushar Deshpande (not out) 0 *(1b)*; Extras (b-1, lb-4, w-10): 15; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 167.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-32 (Conway, 4.1 overs), 2-49 (Ruturaj, 6.1), 3-64 (Moeen, 9.4), 4-77 (Rahane, 11.1), 5-113 (Dube, 14.2), 6-126 (Rayudu, 16.2), 7-164 (Jadeja, 19.2), 8-166 (Dhoni, 19.5).

CAPITALS BOWLING

Khaleel 4-0-32-1, Ishant 2-0-23-0, Lalit 3-0-34-1, Axar 4-0-27-2, Kuldeep 4-0-28-1, Marsh 3-0-18-3.

DELHI CAPITALS

David Warner c Rahane b Deepak Chahar 0 *(2b)*, Phil Salt c Rayudu b Deepak Chahar 17 *(11b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Mitchell Marsh run out 5 *(4b, 1x4)*, Manish Pandey **(Impact Player in place of Khaleel)** lbw b Pathirana 27 *(29b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Rilee Rossouw c Pathirana b Jadeja 35 *(37b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Ripal Patel run out 10 *(16b)*, Axar Patel c Rahane b Pathirana 21 *(12b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Aman Khan (not out) 2 *(3b)*, Lalit Yadav b Pathirana 12 *(5b, 3x4)*, Kuldeep Yadav (not out) 0 (1b); Extras (lb-6, w-5): 11; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 140.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-0 (Warner, 0.2), 2-20 (Salt, 2.3), 3-25 (Marsh, 3.1), 4-84 (Pandey, 12.6), 5-89 (Rossouw, 14.3), 6-116 (Axar, 17.5), 7-125 (Ripal, 18.5), 8-140 (Lalit, 19.5).

SUPER KINGS BOWLING

Deepak Chahar 3-0-28-2, Deshpande 3-0-18-0, Theekshana 2-0-16-0, Jadeja 4-0-19-1, Moeen 4-0-16-0, Pathirana **(Impact Player in place of Dube)** 4-0-37-3.

Toss: CSK; **PoM:** Jadeja.
Super Kings won by 27 runs.

Next assignment

DC: May 13 **vs. PBKS**
Delhi, 7.30 p.m.

CSK: May 14 **vs. KKR**
Chennai, 7.30 p.m.

Rinku reaps the reward of training at KKR Academy

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

Rinku Singh, Kolkata Knight Riders' finisher of the season, says his focus on being a death-over specialist during his time at the KKR Academy has helped him in the ongoing Indian Premier League.

Rinku said the work he put in at the academy paid dividends. "I just practised harder for death overs as per my batting position at the KKR Academy. It is helping me here. "I worked hard at the KKR Academy during the off-season. I have improved a lot," said Rinku ahead of KKR's match against Rajasthan Royals.

Rinku said he always stuck to his strength and did not try fancy shots. "I keep it simple, play normal shots. If I try something extra, it will affect my batting. It's about playing according to the merit of the ball. I back my shots."

Looking up to his Uttar Pradesh teammate and former India finisher Suresh Raina, Rinku said keeping calm was essential.

"For the spot I'm batting at, it's about going in with a clear mind and backing yourself. People were screaming Rinku, Rinku (in the match against Punjab Kings), but my focus was only on the last ball."

About his interaction with M.S. Dhoni, Rinku said, "He's the world's best finisher. I asked him, 'What else I could do while I'm going in to bat?' He said, 'Don't think much, just wait for the ball.'"

The final ball

There have been quite a few nerve-wracking and nail-biting finishes in IPL 2023. A look at the matches where there was hope and anxiety in both dugouts as the last ball was being delivered

Teams	Runs needed	Runs scored	Result	Venue
KKR vs GT	4	6	KKR won by 3 wickets	Ahmedabad
LSG vs RCB	1	1 bye	LSG won by 1 wicket	Bengaluru
MI vs DC	2	2	MI won by 6 wickets	Delhi
CSK vs RR	5	1	RR won by 3 runs	Chennai
PBKS vs CSK	3	3	PBKS won by 4 wickets	Chennai
GT vs DC	7	1	DC won by 5 runs	Ahmedabad
SRH vs KKR	6	0	KKR won by 5 runs	Hyderabad
SRH vs RR	5*	6	SRH won by 4 wickets	Jaipur
KKR vs PBKS	2	4	KKR won by 5 wickets	Kolkata

**Sandeep bowled a no ball. A six was scored off the final legal delivery*

Rinku was the hero in both successful chases for Knight Riders while Varun defended six off the last ball against Sunrisers

COMPILED BY KEERTHANA SHANKAR

KKR and RR find themselves in must-win situation

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

In a mid-table tussle, Kolkata Knight Riders and Rajasthan Royals will lock horns in the IPL at the Eden Gardens on Thursday.

Knight Riders, having won their last two matches, will look to continue their revival while Royals, who have lost their last three engagements, will need to arrest the downward slide.

The host will continue to depend on its reliable batters. Openers Jason Roy and Rahmatullah Gurbaz, and the batters that follow – Venkatesh Iyer, Nitish Rana, Rinku Singh and all-rounder Andre Russell – can punish any attack.

The Kolkata side relies heavily on its spinners led by Varun Chakaravarthy. It will require its pacers to perform tidily at their home ground which has seen high-scoring duels.

Mouth-watering match-up: Ashwin and Varun will vie with each other in outsmarting the batters with their guile. K.R. DEEPAK

Today's match

Kolkata, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 27

KKR 14 | RR 12 | NR 1

PREVIOUS MEETING

KKR won by **seven wickets**, 2022

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIO CINEMA APP

Royals, despite having a potent attack, have leaked runs profusely. The Sanju Samson-led team, which gathered 200-plus totals thrice in its last four matches but lost two of them, must find a way to defend its aggregate.

Bowlers of the calibre of Yuzvendra Chahal and R. Ashwin provide teeth to the Royals' attack and may make the contest another showdown between sides with top-class spinners.

Yashasvi Jaiswal, Jos Buttler and Sanju shoulder maximum responsibility in the visitors' formidable batting line-up.

A BG-BGE

INBRIEF

Mexico's five-time football WC veteran Carbajal passes away

Legendary Mexican goalkeeper Antonio "Tota" Carbajal, *right in pic.*, the first footballer to play in five FIFA World Cups, passed away in Mexico City on Tuesday, aged 93. Carbajal played 47 games for the Mexican national team and appeared in World Cups in Brazil in 1950, Switzerland in 1954, Sweden in 1958, Chile in 1962 and England in 1966.

SEA Games 2023 set to have live broadcast

SportsCast India, in a press release, said it has been granted official permission from the media and broadcasting committee of the Cambodian SEA Games Organizing Committee (CAMSOC) to broadcast live the SEA Games 2023 (May 5 to 17) on its *YouTube* Platform for the Indian subcontinent. Commenting on this development, Rohit Ramesh, Director of SKA Sports said, "It is a fantastic achievement for us to showcase South East Asian elite sporting pedigree to Indian audiences and in this regard, we extend our most sincere thanks to the Honorable Ambassador of Cambodia to India His Excellency Kuong Koy, whose support and guidance has been a pillar of this successful achievement."

Busquets to leave Barcelona at the end of the season

Barcelona midfielder Sergio Busquets will leave the club at the end of this season after spending 18 years with the Catalan outfit, the team said on Wednesday. Busquets, 34, began his youth career at Barcelona in 2005 before making his first-team debut in 2008. He helped Barcelona win eight La Liga titles, seven Copa del Rey crowns, three Champions League trophies and three Club World Cups.

David White to step down as New Zealand Cricket CEO

Long-serving New Zealand Cricket (NZC) chief executive David White has announced that he will step down from his post in August. White, who was appointed as CEO in February 2012, notified the NZC Board of his decision this week. He is just the fourth CEO to lead NZC since 1995.

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: MTV, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 5 & 7.30 a.m.

IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.

Europa League: Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 3 (SD & HD) & LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Friday)

Biggest challenge is consistency: Chirag

'Winning the Asian championship is really special, given the fact that the Sudirman Cup, Asian Games and the World championships are coming up'

BADMINTON

V.V. Subrahmanyam
HYDERABAD

Chirag Shetty has been the silent performer even as his explosive partner R. Satwiksairaj indulges in dominating jump smashes to unsettle rivals in what has been arguably the best men's doubles combination (now World No.5) in Indian badminton ever.

And, typical of his soft nature, Chirag has stayed grounded despite winning a historic men's doubles title – partnering Satwiksairaj – in the recent Asian championship in Dubai.

"Except for some European big names, all the other familiar names from Asia were there. That way, it has been a truly special performance given the challenging draw and the conditions," Chirag said in a chat with *The Hindu*.

Chirag said he and Satwiksairaj complement each other really well. "This is one of the reasons why our combination is so special and we keep winning some of the major titles," he said.

Confidence boost

"These (winning at the Asian championship) are really very important. It is really special given the fact that the Sudirman Cup, Asian Games and the World championships are coming up. A huge confidence booster for sure," Chirag said.

"Learning is a never-ending process. There is always scope for improvement in a lot of areas. We intend to solidify our defence," he said.

"The biggest challenge for us, of course, is to be consistent right through. We believe we have it in us to win big events including an Olympic medal.

"That's what we are gunning for," Chirag said.

He added that the appointment of doubles coach Mathias Boe has been very beneficial to them.

Systematic

"There is a lot more systematic programming of our training schedules. And, not just during practice but also when we approach the tournaments.

"There is a lot of planning and that is one of the reasons why we are able to play well," Chirag said. "His appointment has certainly been a huge boost for us," he concluded.

Perfect balance: Chirag and Satwiksairaj, left, are arguably the best men's doubles combination in Indian badminton. GETTY IMAGES

On target: Rhythm handled the final well to get a podium finish. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Rhythm claims her maiden WC medal

SHOOTING

Sports Bureau

Rhythm Sangwan won the bronze medal in women's air pistol, behind two former World and Olympic champions Anna Korakaki and Olena Kostevych in the World Cup in Baku, Azerbaijan, on Wednesday.

With the ISSF reverting to the old format, it was simple qualification followed by the final for the top eight. The semifinal stage was eliminated.

After qualifying with the second best score of 581, 19-year-old Rhythm handled the final well to clinch her maiden medal in the World Cup. Teammate Esha Singh also made the final, but ended up sixth.

In men's air pistol, Sarabjot Singh, the gold medallist in the Bhopal World Cup, placed fourth, after having topped qualification with 589.

The results: 10m air pistol:
Men: 1. Sajad Lafmejani (Iri) 240.2 (583), 2. Oleh Omelchuk (Ukr) 239.8 (583), 3. Robin Walter (Ger) 217.6 (582).
4. Sarabjot Singh 198.9 (589), 17. Shiva Narwal 579, 52. Varun Tomar 574. RPO: Arjun Singh Cheema 581; Ujjawal Malik 576.
Women: 1. Anna Korakaki (Gre) 241.3 (581), 2. Olena Kostevych (Ukr) 240.6 (579), 3. Rhythm Sangwan 219.1 (581).
6. Esha Singh 154.8 (579), 18. TS Divya 575. RPO: Manu Bhaker 570.

Former AIFF vice-president Khaleel passes away

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Former All India Football Federation (AIFF) vice-president A.R. Khaleel passed away here on Wednesday. He was 91.

Khaleel, who had served as the president of the Karnataka State Football Association (KSFA) for 28 years, had also served as the AIFF treasurer and executive committee member.

On occasion, Khaleel was a member of Asian Football Confederation Standing Committees.

A.R. Khaleel. FILE PHOTO

He founded Jawahar Union FC, a top club in Karnataka. Khaleel became a member of the Bangalore District Football Association (BDFA) in 1953, before taking over as KSFA President in 1989.

An AIFF statement noted that "Khaleel will always be remembered for the exemplary work he did in acquiring land and building the Bangalore Football Stadium".

AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey, AIFF secretary general Shaji Prabhakaran, KSFA and BDFA condoled his demise.

India U-17 men lose to Getafe 3-1

ANI
NEW DELHI

India U-17 men's National football team suffered a 3-1 defeat against Getafe U-18 at Segovia in their fifth training game in Spain. Korou Singh put India ahead in the 12th minute before Angel Blanco equalised in the 24th. Luis Kawecki put the Spaniards in the lead on the 26th, before an own goal by Pramveer gave them a two-goal lead six minutes before half-time.

Bangladesh-Ireland wash out confirms SA's WC qualification

Associated Press
CHELMSFORD

The first of three ODIs between Bangladesh and Ireland ended in a no result after the match was abandoned because of rain, confirming South Africa's place in this year's Cricket World Cup.

Ireland needed to win all three matches in the series to stand a chance of claiming the final automatic qualifying place for the World Cup via the ICC ODI Super League, at the expense of the Proteas.

The Irish must go through final qualifying in June and July, after rain interrupted their reply to Bangladesh's 246-9 on Tuesday.

The scores:
Bangladesh 246/9 in 50 overs (Mushfiqur Rahim 61, Najmul Hossain Shanto 44, Josh Little 3/61) vs Ireland 65/3 in 16.3 overs.
Toss: Ireland. (Match abandoned due to rain, three-match series level 0-0).

India loses to Japan, meets Korea in quarterfinals

Sports Bureau

Rethin Pranav and Kriish Tyagi went down as Japan beat India 2-1 in the last league match of group-B in the Asia-Oceania Junior Davis Cup under-16 tennis in Shymkent, Kazakhstan, on Wednesday.

Having accomplished the task of beating India by winning both the singles matches through Ren Matsumura and Hiromasa Koyama, Japan gave a walkover in doubles.

India is seeded second and the loss against seventh-seed Japan meant that the team was drawn to play top seed Korea in the quarterfinals. Japan will play sixth seed Hong Kong.

The other two quarterfinals will be Australia-Kazakhstan-Thailand.

The results (league): Japan bt India 2-1 (Ren Matsumura bt Rethin Pranav 6-1, 3-6, 6-3; Hiromasa Koyama bt Kriish Tyagi 6-7(4), 6-2, 6-3; Hyu Kawanishi & Hiromasa lost to Rethin Pranav & Kriish Tyagi w.o.).

Ruhaan clinches podium in GB4 single-seater championship

MOTORSPORTS

Sports Bureau

Ruhaan Alva grabbed his maiden podium in the GB4 single-seater championship last weekend with a second-place finish in the series' second round at Silverstone recently.

The 16-year-old, who is a part of the JK Tyre scholarship programme crossed the line less than a second behind winner Harri Reynolds with Tom Mills third.

Ruhaan, who drives for Fortec Motorsports, got on the podium in the third race of the weekend. He had started from pole but contact with Sid Smith robbed him of momentum giving Reynolds a sniff at the lead.

The GB4 Championship is an entry-level, one-make single-seater championship aimed at giving young racers their first taste of a slicks-and-wings machinery.

Ruhaan.

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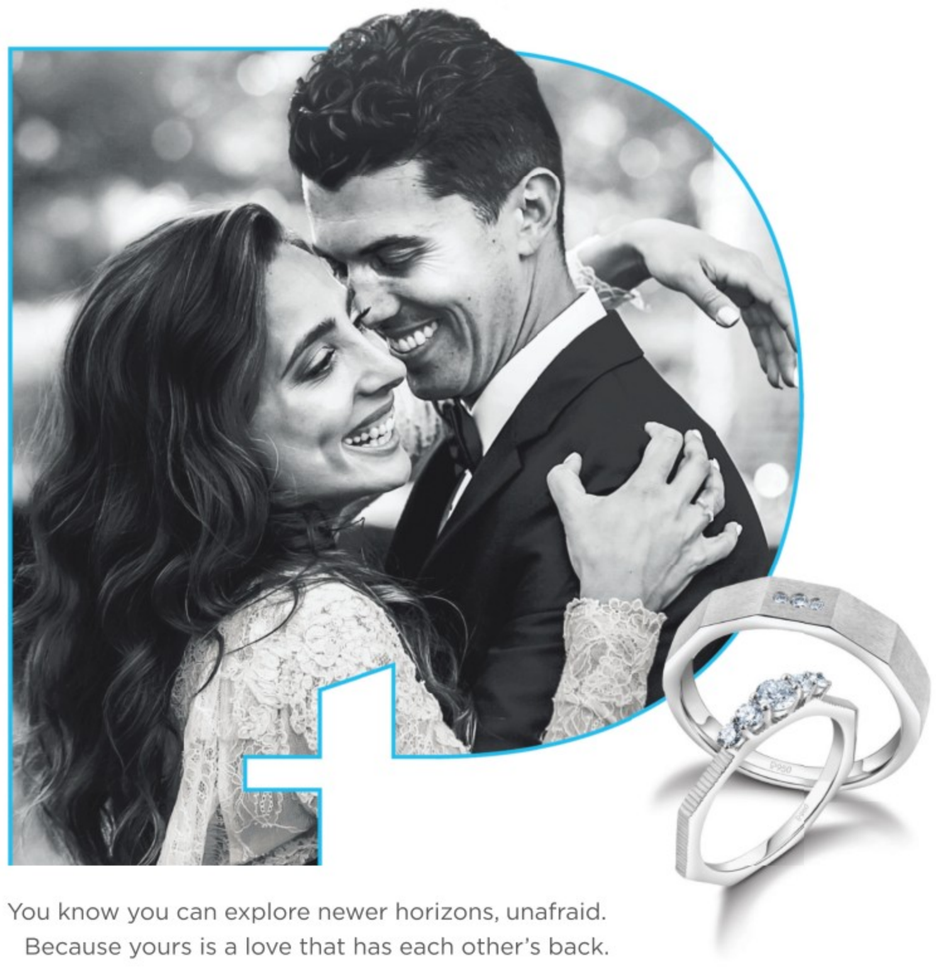

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